



WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

no. 3

TOMO
TAKEUCHI

WELCOME no.3 | TOMO
TAKEUCHI
TO THE BALLROOM

Contents

Heat 8

The Tenpei Cup

003

Heat 9

Reality

051

Heat 10

Target

95

Heat 11

The Flower and the Picture Frame

145

Extra Heat

Ogasawara Dance Studio

Girl Talk

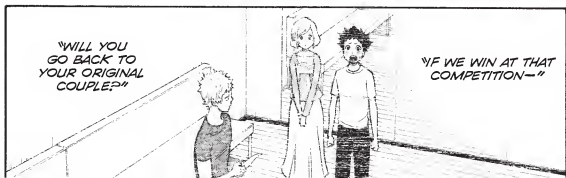
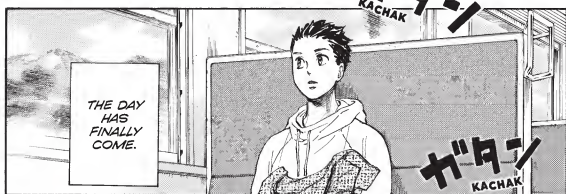
185

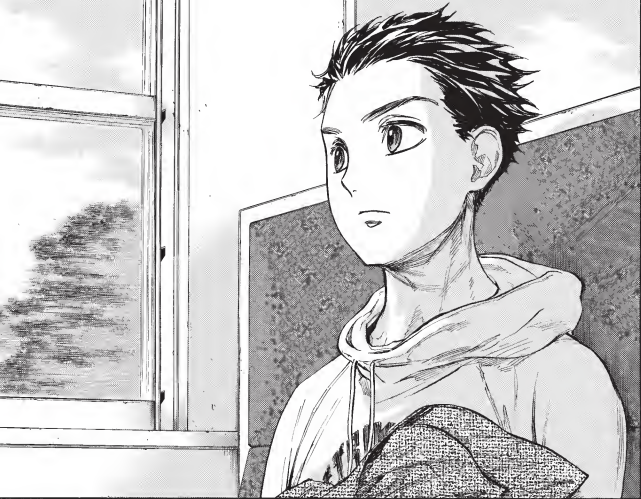


MIRROR: AKAGI CONSTRUCTION

Heat 8: The Tenpei Cup



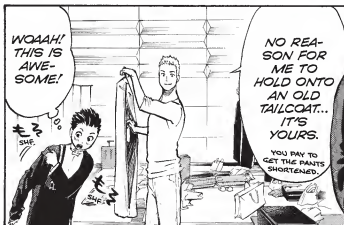




*THE
TENPEI
CUP.*



*IT'S
TIME.*



WOOAH!
THIS IS
AWESOME!

NO REA-
SON FOR
ME TO
HOLD ONTO
AN OLD
TAILCOAT...
IT'S
YOURS.

YOU PAY TO
GET THE PANTS
SHORTENED.

REALLY?!
YOU'RE
LETTING ME
HAVE THIS?



TEN
YEARS
AGO...

HOW OLD
ARE YOU,
SENGOKU-
SAN?



THERE YA GO

I USED
THIS TEN
YEARS
AGO,
SO IT'S
A LITTLE
OUT OF
STYLE.



AND I STILL
GOTTA
SHORTEN
THE PANTS
HE WORE
WHEN HE
WAS 13...



HE
DOESN'T
LOOK
THAT
YOUNG!
8 YEARS
OLDER
THAN ME!



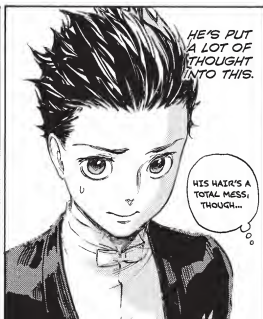
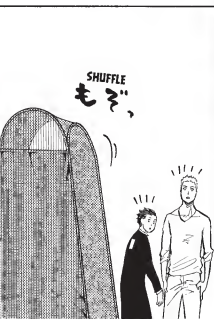
I'M
23.

SAME AS
YOUR
NUMBER.

I NEVER
TOLD YOU?

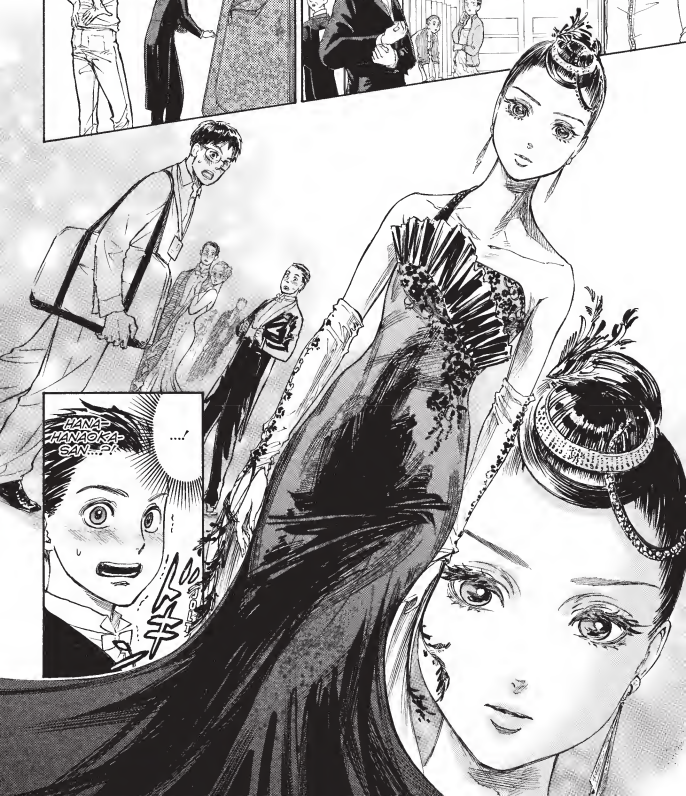
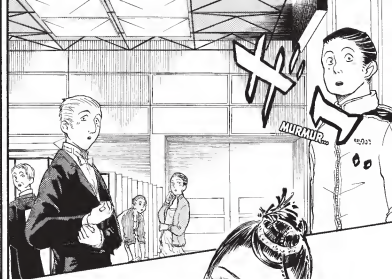
HRM?

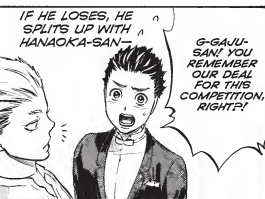
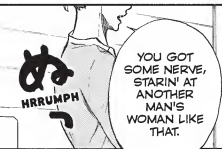
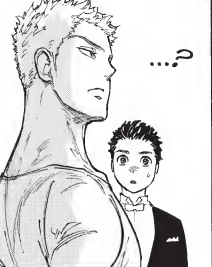
23













THIS
GUY IS
GOING
DOWN...!



LOOK,
WHO
CARES
ABOUT
THAT?

YOU TWO'RE
BETTER OFF
STAYIN'
TOGETHER,
YEAH?

COUPLE'A
MIDGETS MAKE
A GREAT MATCH



THERE IS
NO WAY-

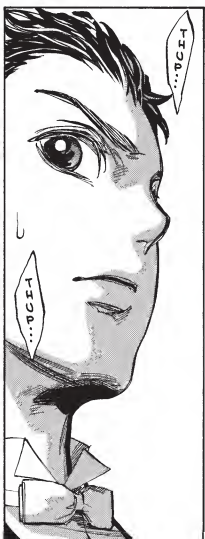
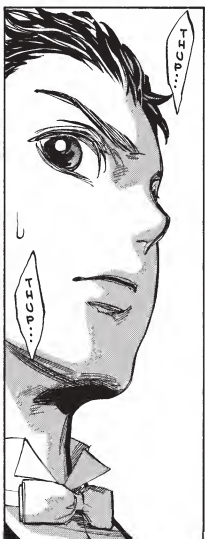
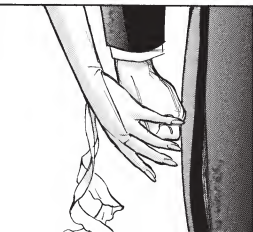
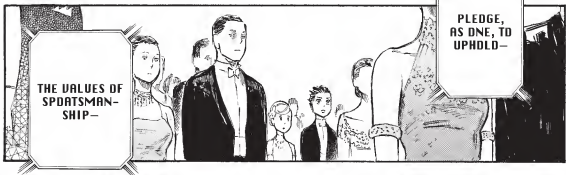
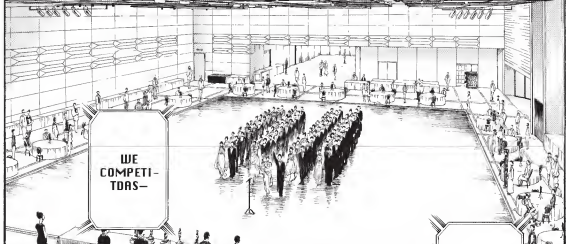
DON'T YOU
WORRY
'BOUT A
THING!

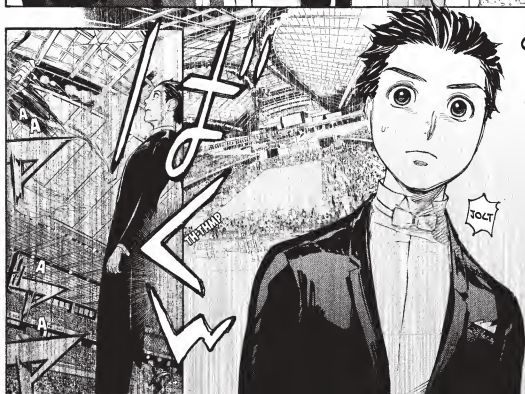
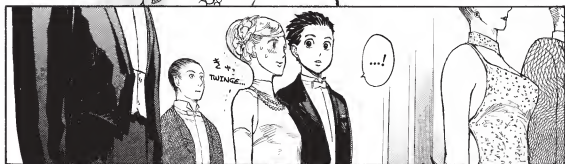
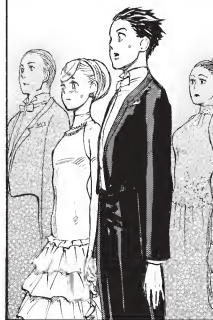
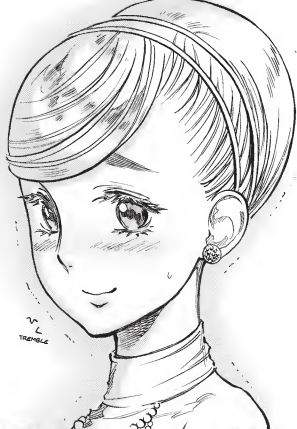
HE JUST
IGNORES
OTHER
PEOPLE'S
FEELINGS!



I
REFUSE
TO LOSE
TO THIS
JERK!!

WE'RE
GONNA WIN
AND KEEP
THINGS
JUS' THE
WAY THEY
ARE.



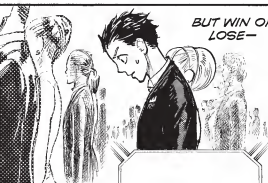




THE ORGANIZER
AND CHIEF
JUDGE, TENPEI
HANAGEISHI, HAS
BEEN DELAYED IN
ARRIVING AND
HAS ASKED THAT
WE PASS ALONG
HIS WELCOME.



"YOU HAVE
ENTERED
THE FIELD OF
COMPETITION."

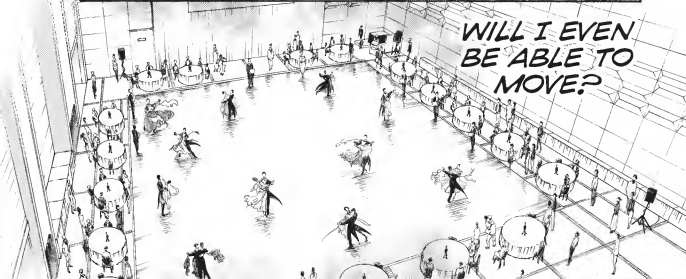


BUT WIN OR
LOSE—

"I TRULY LOOK
FORWARD TO
THE CONTEST OF
THE BEAUTY AND
ENERGY OF YOUR
DANCES."



WILL I EVEN
BE ABLE TO
MOVE?





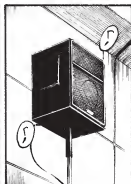
THE WALTZ.

ROUND 1—



YOU GUYS ARE IN THE THIRD HEAT*!

HEY, WHERE'D MAKO GO?

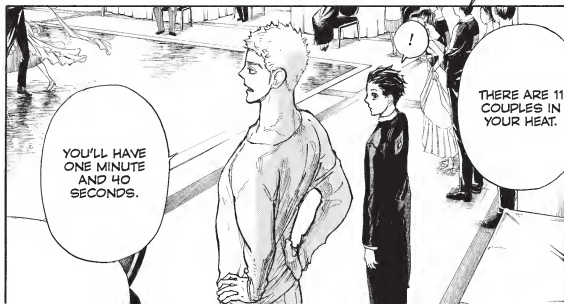


*HEAT: A PRELIMINARY ROUND. THE TOP COMPETITORS FROM EACH HEAT ADVANCE TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE CUP.



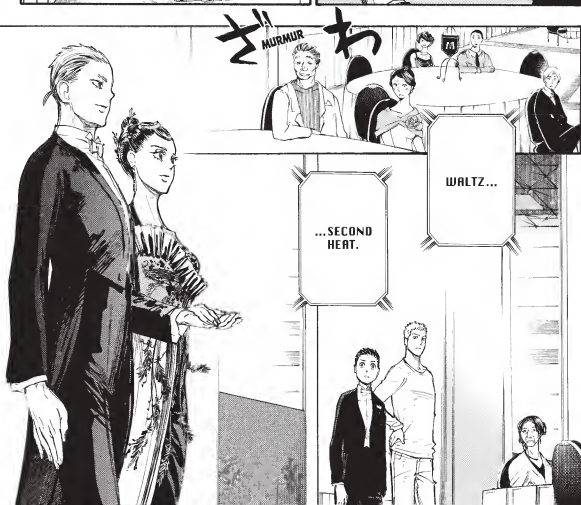
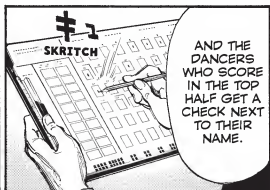
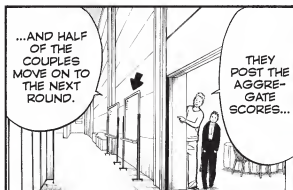
BMP
F" #

BMP
F" #



YOU'LL HAVE ONE MINUTE AND 40 SECONDS.

THERE ARE 11 COUPLES IN YOUR HEAT.

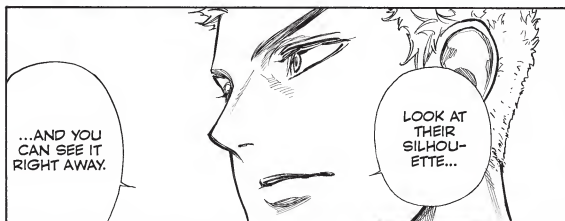




THOSE TWO
JUST GOT A
LOOK FROM ALL
OF THE JUDGES.

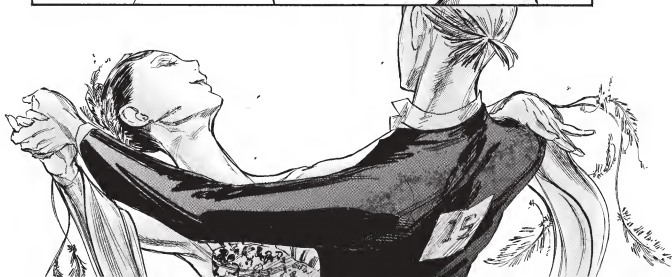


BUT...
THEY
HAVEN'T
EVEN
STARTED
DANC-
ING...



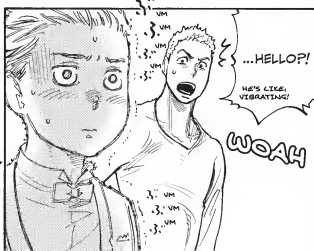
...AND YOU
CAN SEE IT
RIGHT AWAY.

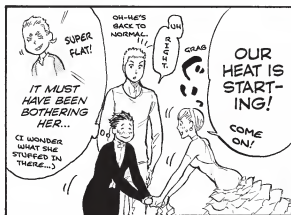
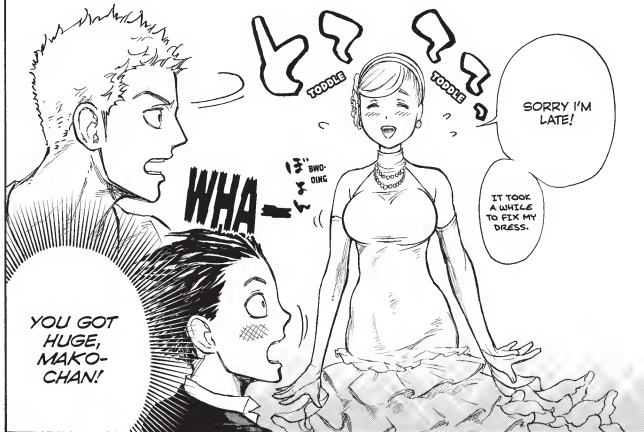
LOOK AT
THEIR
SILHOU-
ETTE...



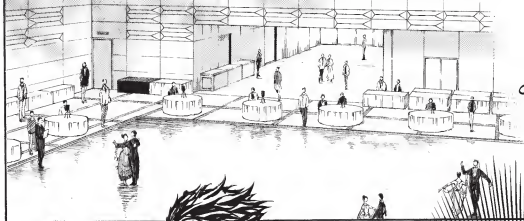


HOW
GOOD
THEY ARE.





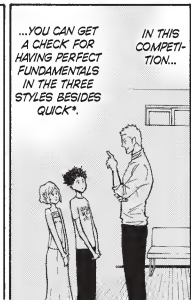
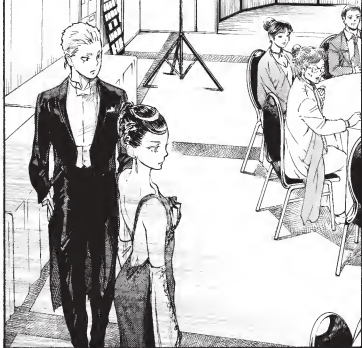




THIS IS
THE FIRST
COMPETITION
I'VE EVER
ENTERED.



**BIG
STEP!**

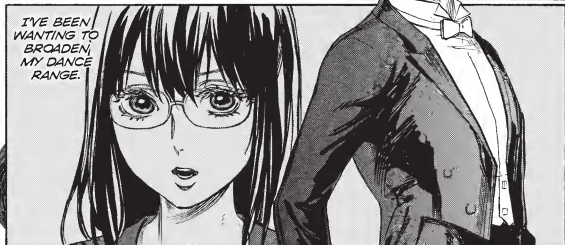






SURE, I'LL
DANCE WITH
YOU.

...



I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
BROADEN
MY DANCE
RANGE.

GLANCE
ちら
OOP-
SURE'S
LOOKIN'
AT ME.

SHIZUKU
SURE TAKES
THIS SERIOUS.
WHICH IS
ADORABLE.



SURE,
HYODO
WAS IN
MY WAY,
BUT-

SHIZUKU,
I'VE
ALWAYS...
UM UM

FUMBLE
わた
わた
FUMBLE



SO THEN
YOU HAVE
TO WIN
THIS COM-
PETITION.

HEH



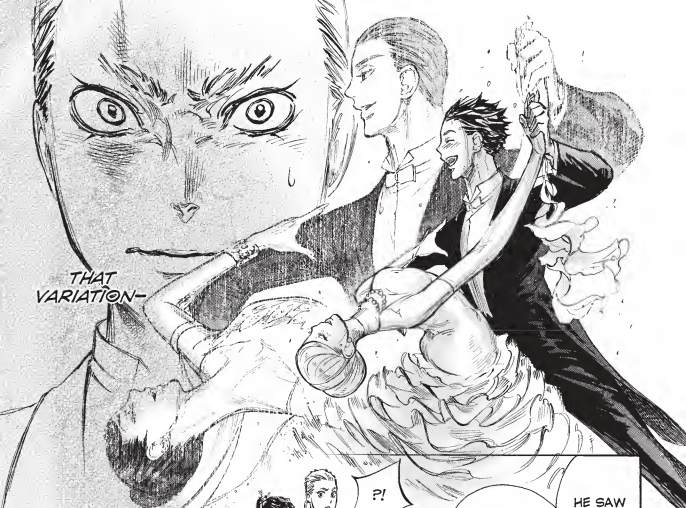
HOW DID
HYODO
GET INTO
THIS CON-
VERSATION?!

!?
...YOU WANTED
TO DANCE
WITH ME
BECAUSE
I WAS
KIYOHARU'S
PARTNER,
DIDN'T YOU?



BECAUSE
FUJITA-KUN
WAS THE ONE
KIYOHARU
WAS WORRIED
ABOUT.

?!



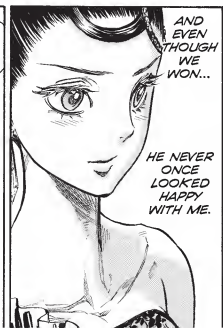
THAT
VARIATION-

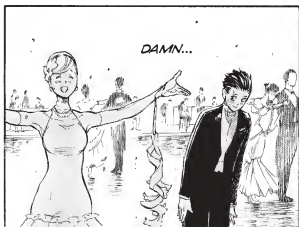


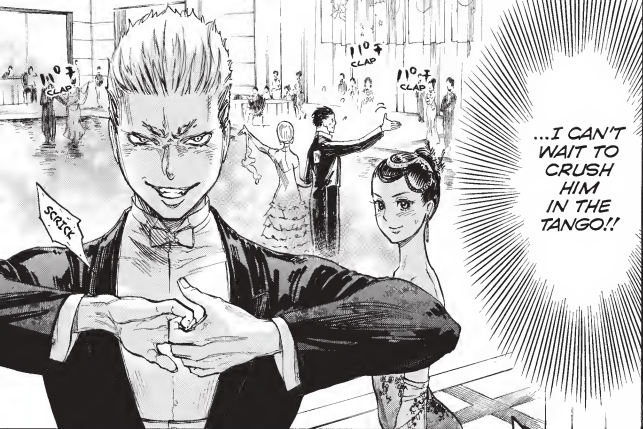
?!

THAT'S WHY
KIYOHARU
DANCED THE
TANGO THE
WAY HE DID AT
THE MIKASA.

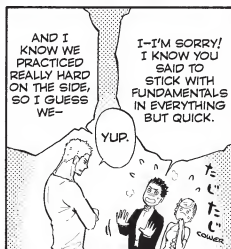
HE SAW
THAT.







...I CAN'T
WAIT TO
CRUSH
HIM
IN THE
TANGO!!



AND I
KNOW WE
PRACTICED
REALLY HARD
ON THE SIDE,
SO I GUESS
WE-

I-I'M SORRY!
I KNOW YOU
SAID TO
STICK WITH
FUNDAMENTALS
IN EVERYTHING
BUT QUICK.

YUP.

たいたい
COWER



URK!

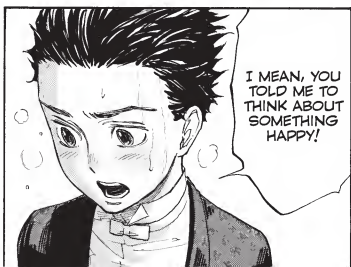
STARE...



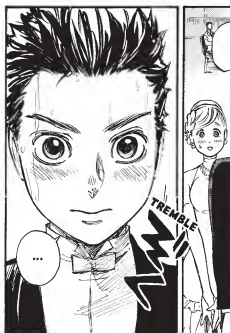
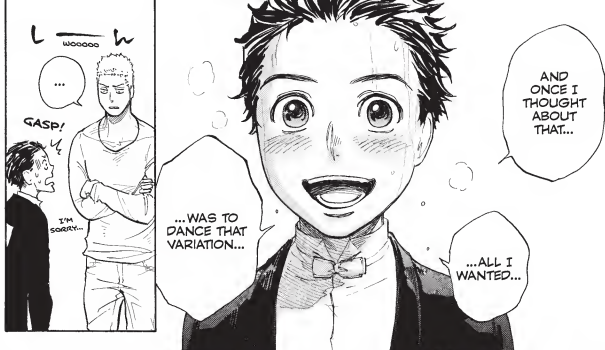
YEA
A
A
A

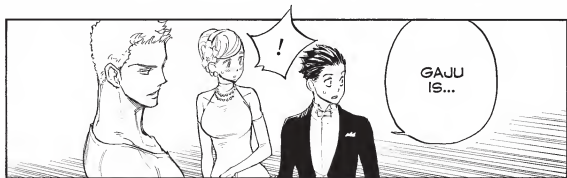
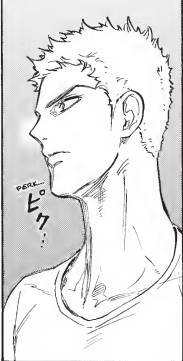
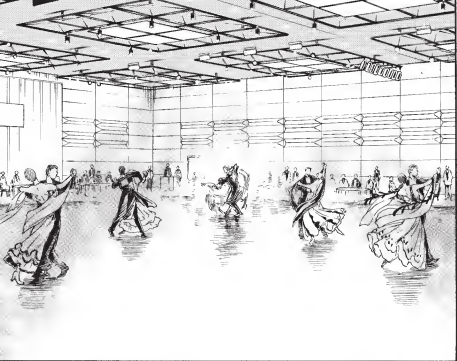


SO I
THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
MIKASA
CUP...



I MEAN, YOU
TOLD ME TO
THINK ABOUT
SOMETHING
HAPPY!



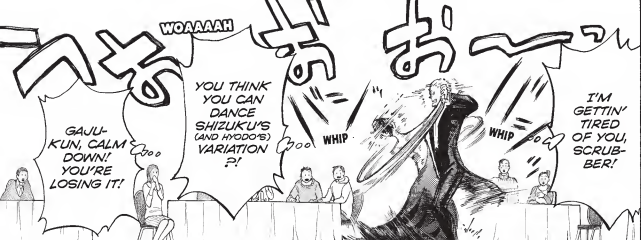


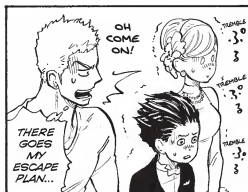
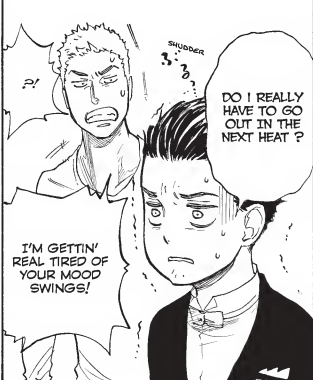


DID HE
LOOK
AT ME
....?!

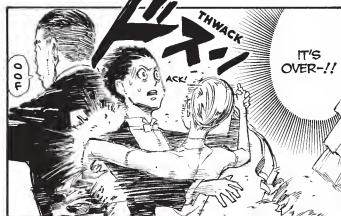


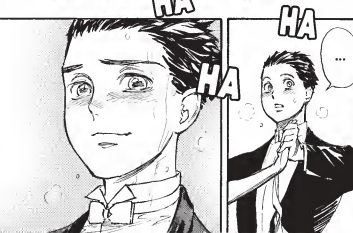
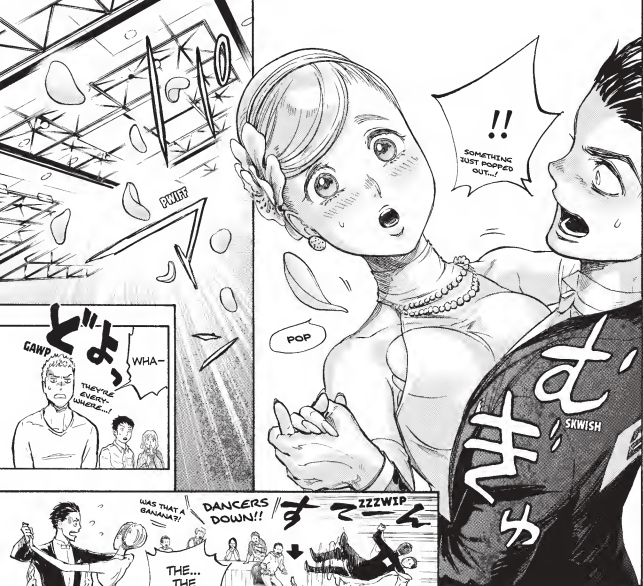
WHA--

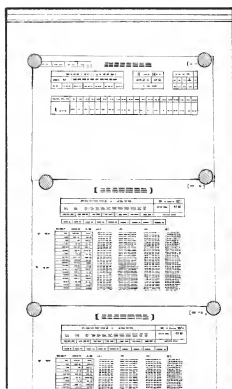




TANGO,
THIRD HEAT.

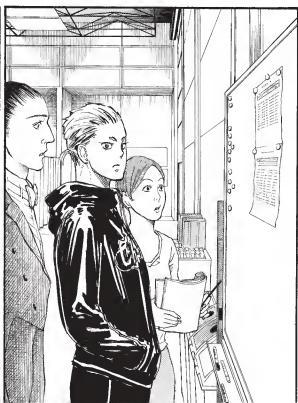
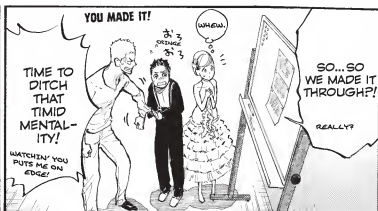






NUMBER	DANCER	Tenpei Cup		First Round		Third Heat		Total	Rank	Decision
		A WT	B WT	C WT	D WT	E WT	F WT			
23	TATARA FUJITA	**	**	**	*		*	10	19	P
34	HIP	**	*	**	**	**	**	13	3	P
25								0	42	
26		**		*			**	6	31	
27			*	*		*	*	4	35	
28		**	**	**	**	**	**	14	1	P
29		**		*	**	*	**	9	23	

OH MAN.
WE BARELY MADE IT...





SECOND
HEAT.



FOCUS
ON YOUR
ROUTINE!



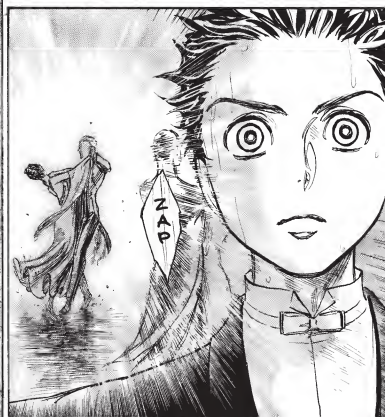
NOW THE
BATTLE FOR
POINTS
BEGINS.

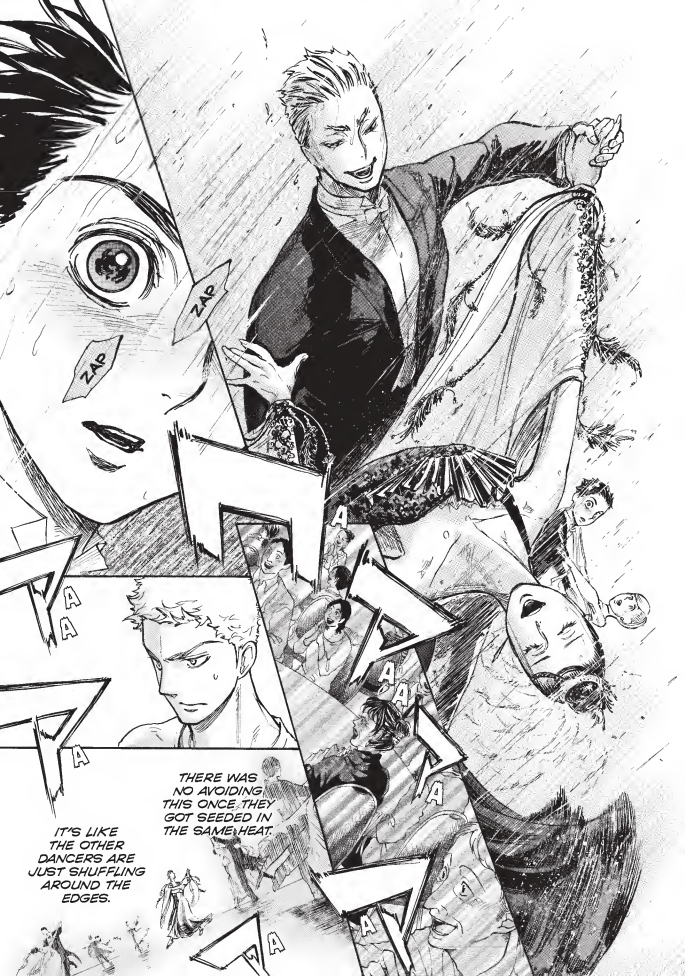
THEY'RE IN
THE SAME
HEAT THIS
ROUND.



THEY'RE
RIGHT NEXT
TO US—

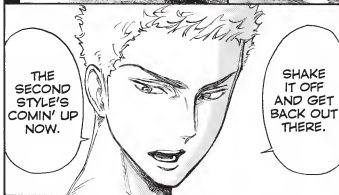


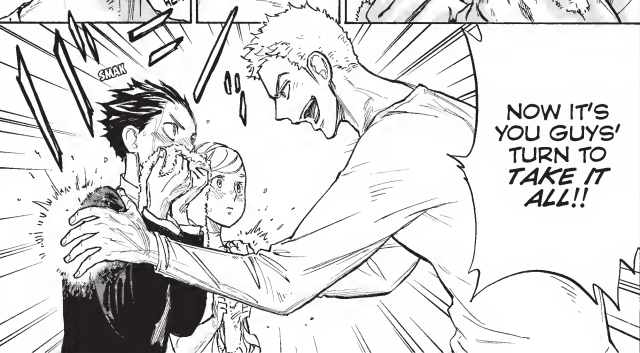
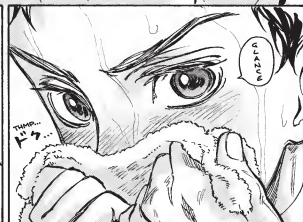


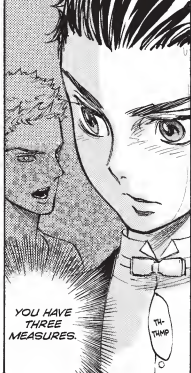


THERE WAS
NO AVOIDING
THIS ONCE THEY
GOT SEEDED IN
THE SAME HEAT.

IT'S LIKE
THE OTHER
DANCERS ARE
JUST SHUFFLING
AROUND THE
EDGES.







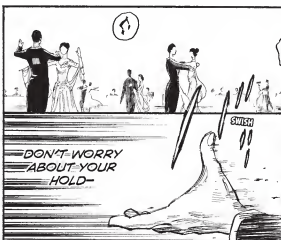
YOU HAVE
THREE
MEASURES.

TH-
THMP



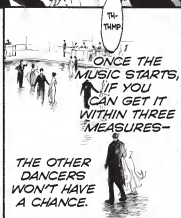
SECOND HEAT.

KAZUO



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT YOUR
HOLD—

SMASH



ONCE THE
MUSIC STARTS,
IF YOU
CAN GET IT
WITHIN THREE
MEASURES—

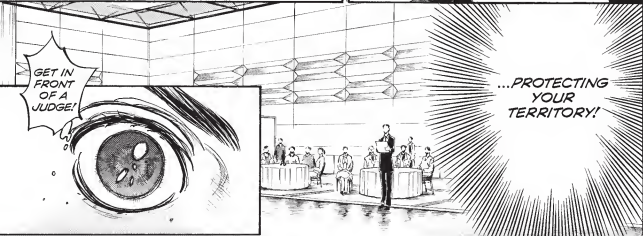
THE OTHER
DANCERS
WON'T HAVE
A CHANCE.

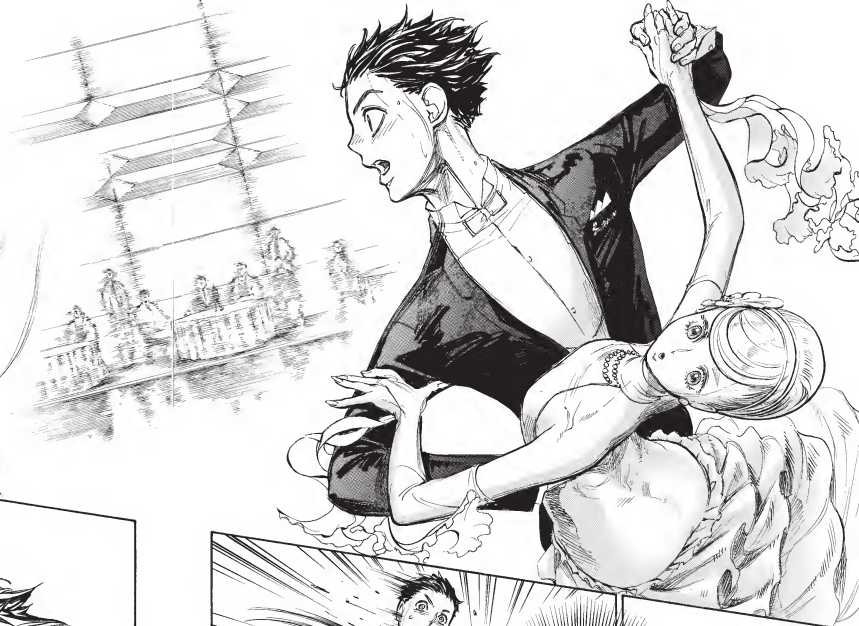


WOAH!



FIX YOUR
EYES ON THE
SPACE AT THE
MIDDLE OF THE
FLOOR—

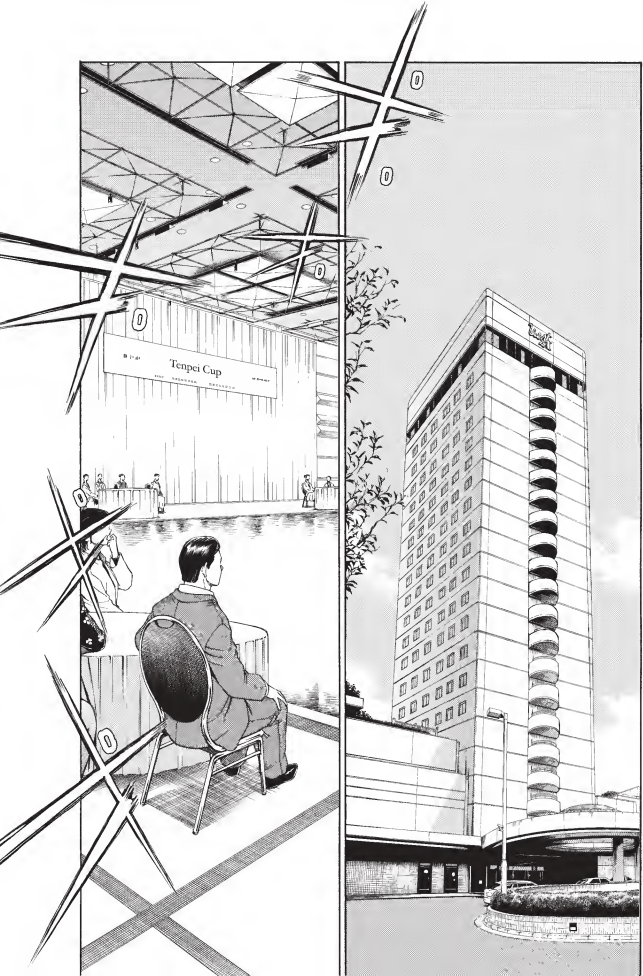


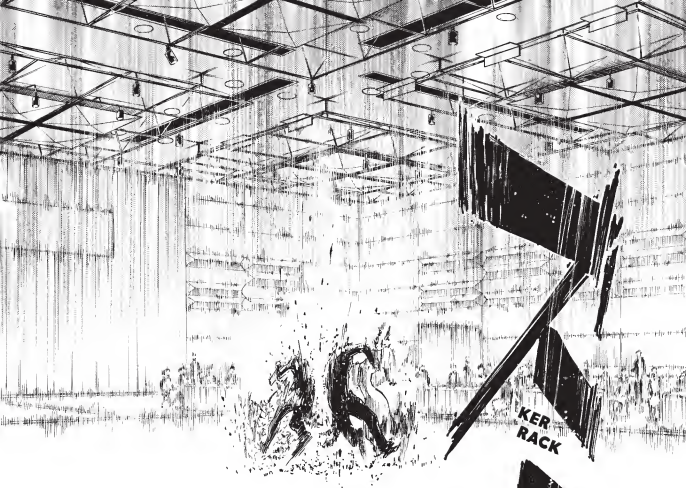




Heat 8: END

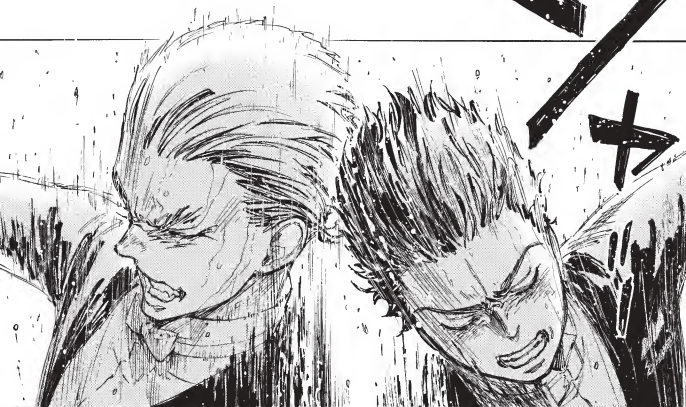
WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

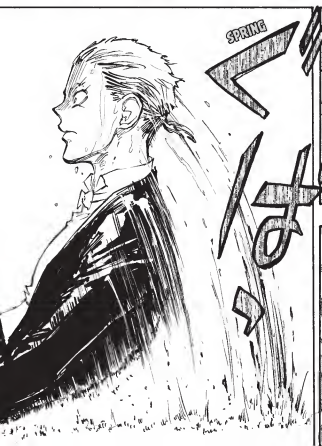


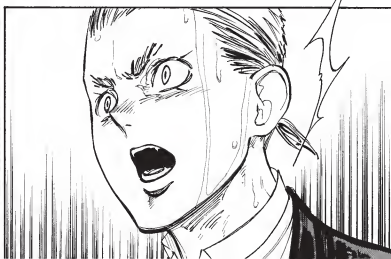
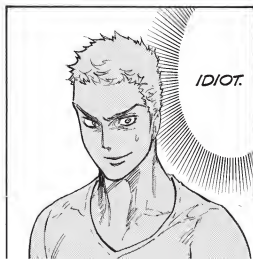
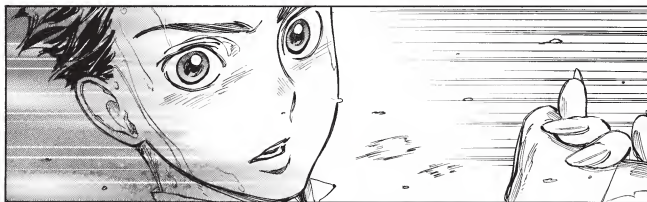


**KER
RACK**

Heat 9: Reality



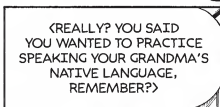
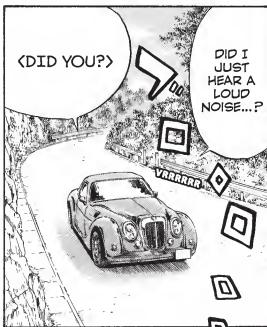






NEVER...

**...STOP
DANCING...!**





<YOU KNOW...I'M REALLY SORRY I'M ALWAYS SO BUSY WITH WORK AND LEAVING YOU HOME ALONE. ALTHOUGH YOU DO LIKE BEING ALONE.>



<IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO TEASE EACH OTHER WHEN WE DO SPEND TIME TOGETHER.>



<AND TENPEI-SENSEI DID INVITE US OUT TODAY. THE HOT SPRING WILL BE GOOD FOR YOUR LEG, TOO...>



HE FELL ASLEEP...

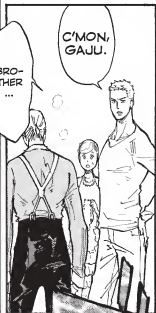


OH...

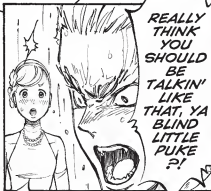




I'M NOT
GOING TO
APOLOGIZE.



YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
WASN'T
LOOKING,
GAJU!



REALLY
THINK
YOU
SHOULD
BE
TALKIN'
LIKE
THAT,
YA
BLIND
LITTLE
PUKE
?!



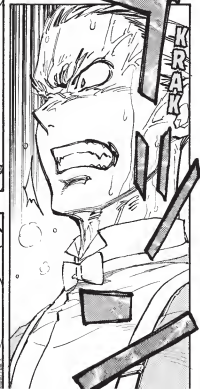
WHASSAT?!
KLUTZ LIKE
YOU, COMIN'
AT ME LIKE
THAT?!

OBVIOUSLY
YER BOTH
A' YA TO
BLAME!!

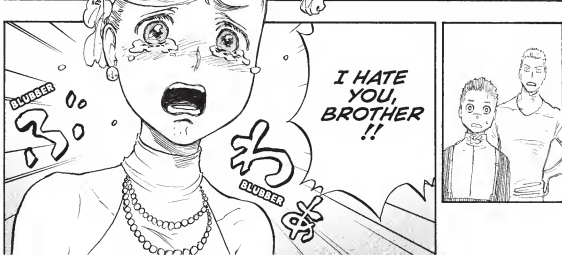
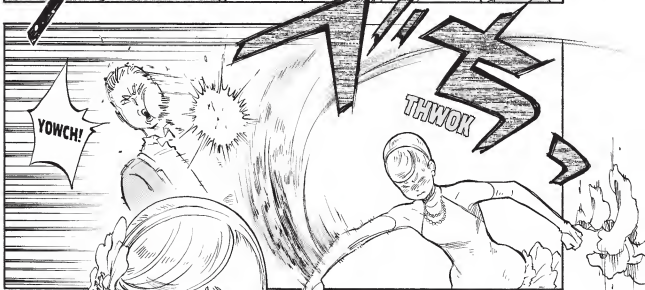
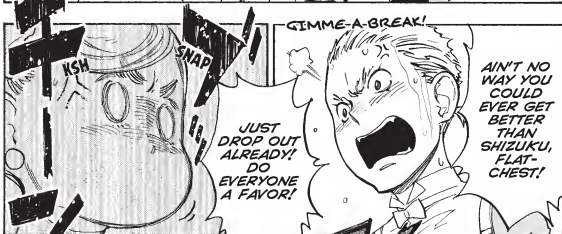
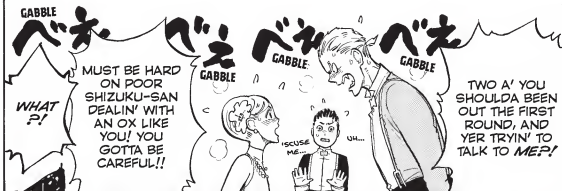
SERIOUSLY
C'MON!!



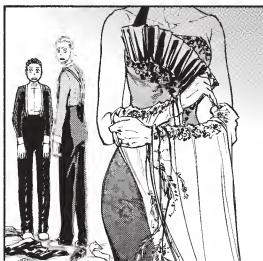
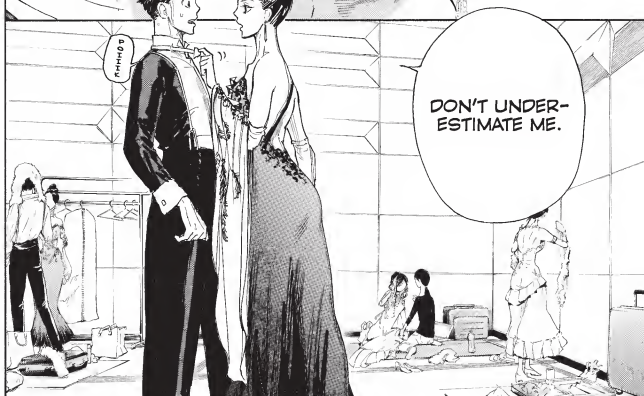
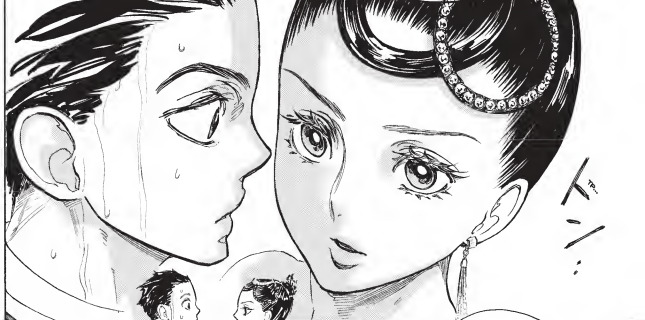
MAKO-
CHA...



KRAY









!

THE
DIFFERENCE
IS GONNA
BE NIGHT
AND DAY TO
THE FOLKS
WATCHIN'.

SOME NOVICE
TRIPPIN' OVER
HIS OWN
FEET OUT
THERE, TRYIN'
TO SHUFFLE
THROUGH
THOSE
MOVES?

AND THEN THEY
FEEL LIKE, HEY, I
CAN DANCE! AND
THAT'S A GREAT
THING ABOUT
DANCE.

ANYONE
CAN LEARN
THE STEPS
AND START
DANCIN'.

YOU GUYS
CAN RUN
THROUGH
IT, SURE—

THAT WAS
THE KING'S
VARIATION,
RIGHT?
THAT HYODO
DANCES?



BUT ALL
PEOPLE SEE
IS SOME
NEWBIES
PATTIN'
THEMSELVES
ON THE BACK
FOR STEALIN'
A GREAT
ROUTINE.



FWOOSH
ぽ
あ
あ
あ

TOTALLY
SUPER-
FICIAL
THE
WHOLE
TIME...

YOU FLY
THROUGH
THE
BASIC...



UGH.

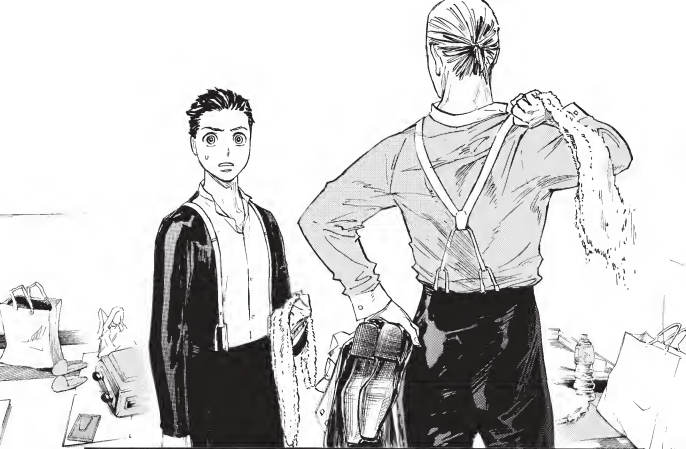


...

GUH



YOU JUST
GONNA RIP
OFF OTHER
PEOPLE'S
DANCES?



TENPEI
HANRGEISHI
WOULD LIKE
TO SAY A FEW
WORDS.

THE DGA-
NIZER AND
HEAD JUDGE
OF TODAY'S
COMPETI-
TION—

AH...



...I DON'T
SEE ANY
NOSE HAIR.

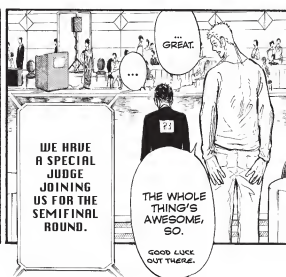
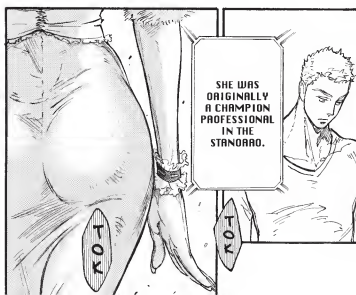
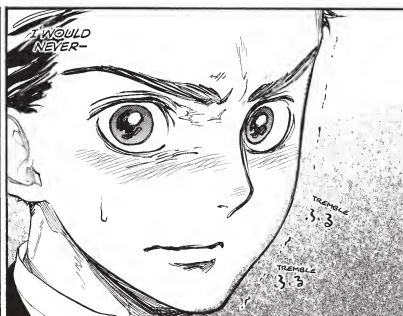
THAT'S A
PUN.

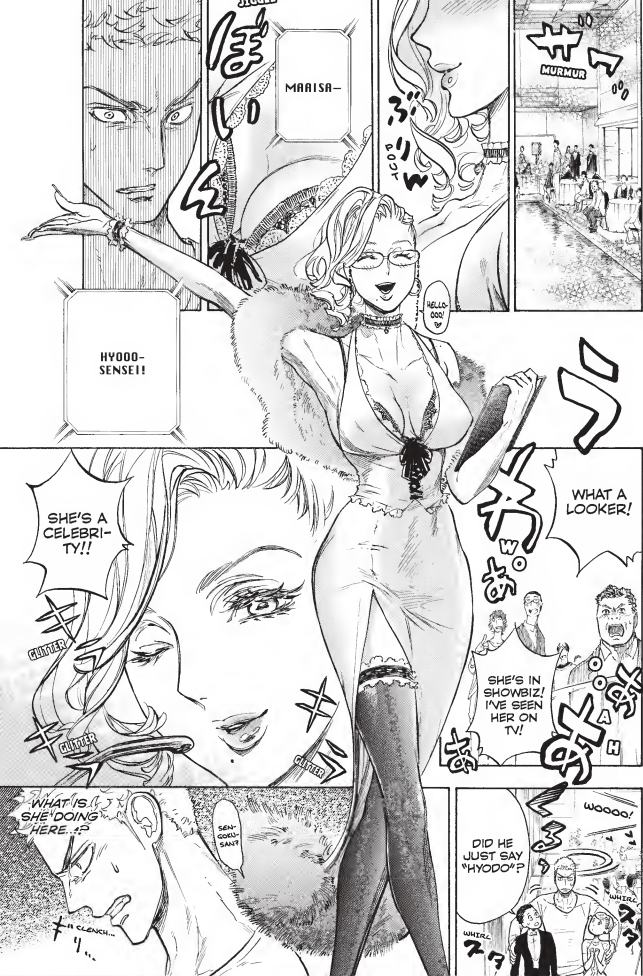
TO EVERY-
ONE HERE
TODAY...

I'M VERY
GRATEFUL THAT
YOU INDULGE
MY HOBBY BY
GATHERING
HERE EVERY
YEAR.

NOTE: THE FIRST THREE SYLLABLES OF THE ORGANIZER'S NAME,
"HANAGE," ARE ALSO THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "NOSE HAIR."

SENGOKU-
SAN.





MARISA-

HYODO-
SENSEI!!

MURMUR

HELLO-
OOO!!

SHE'S A
CELEBRI-
TY!!

CLUTTER

CLUTTER

CLUTTER

WHAT A
LOOKER!

SHE'S IN
SHOWBIZ!
I'VE SEEN
HER ON
TV!

WHAT IS
SHE DOING
HERE..?

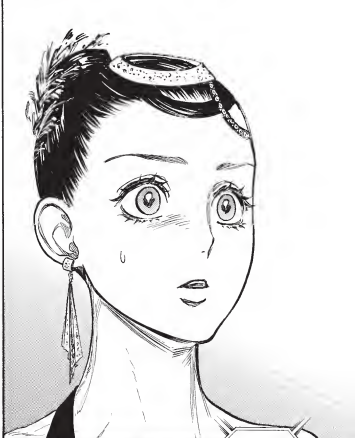
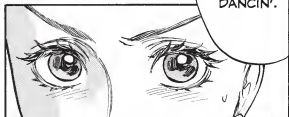
SEN-
GOU-
SANT?

DID HE
JUST SAY
'HYODO'?

WOOOO!

WHERE?

WHERE?



WE NEED TO
BE PERFECT
IN ALL FOUR
CATEGORIES.

WE CAN'T
AFFORD
TO MAKE
A SINGLE
MISTAKE.

HWP

THE BOY
SHE'S
DANCING
WITH—

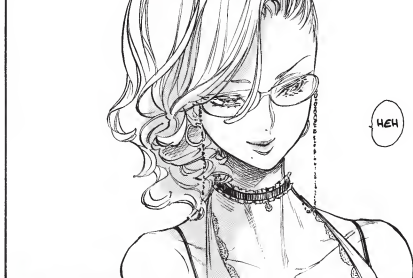
HM...P
IS THAT
MAKO
AKAGI-
CHAN?

HE'S
REALLY
STEPPED
IT UP

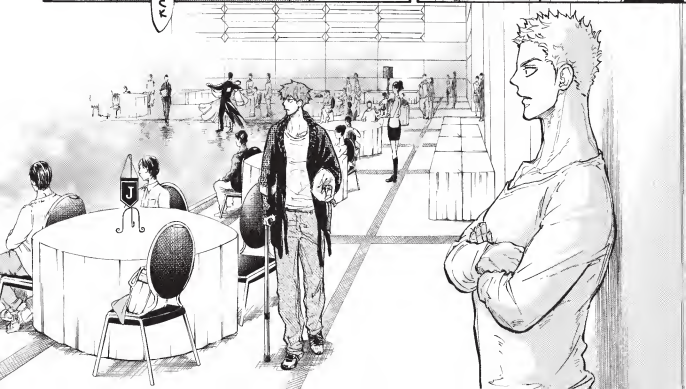
PERF.

WHAT
A WIDE
SWING!

WE NEED
TO DANCE
OUR
ABSOLUTE
BEST!



HRMPH...
I BET SHE
WON'T
TELL
HER SON
ABOUT
THIS.





BUT THE WAY
HE MOVES HIS
BODY...

HIS
PERSONALITY
IS SO
AGGRAVATING
(GRIPE)

*ALWAYS SMILE IN
THE WALTZ

BUT THE WAY
HE MOVES HIS
BODY...

HIS
PERSONALITY
IS SO
AGGRAVATING
(GRIPE)

*ALWAYS SMILE IN
THE WALTZ

BUT THE WAY
HE MOVES HIS
BODY...

HIS
PERSONALITY
IS SO
AGGRAVATING
(GRIPE)

*ALWAYS SMILE IN
THE WALTZ

GAUL-SAN GOT THROUGH THAT ROUND IN FIRST PLACE.

CRACKLE

HE'S REALLY GOOD!!

CRACKLE

HE'S REALLY GOOD!!

GAJU...



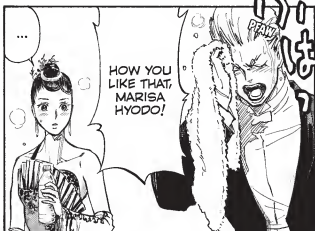
THERE'S A
REASON
FOR THIS...



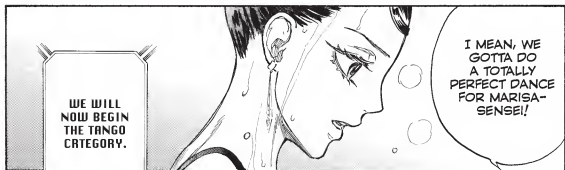
GEEZ,
I AMP
SORRY!

I CAN
BARELY
KEEP
UP.

YOU'RE
MAKING
YOUR
MOVE-
MENTS
TOO BIG,
GAJU-
KUN.



HOW YOU
LIKE THAT,
MARISA
HYODO!

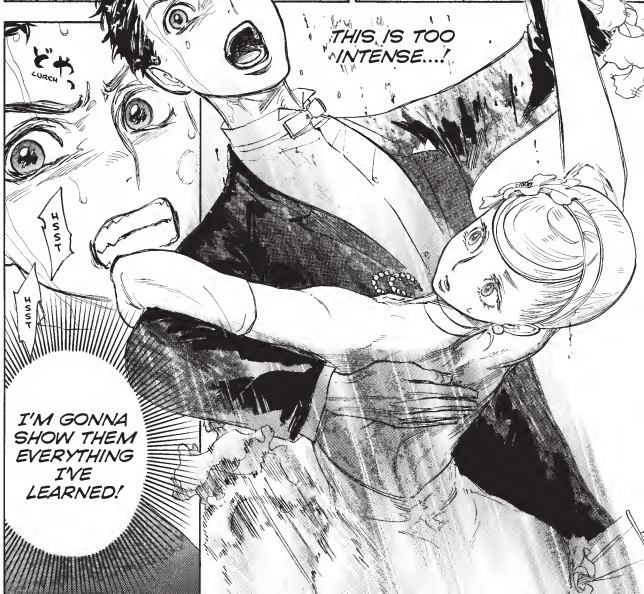


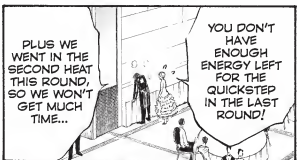
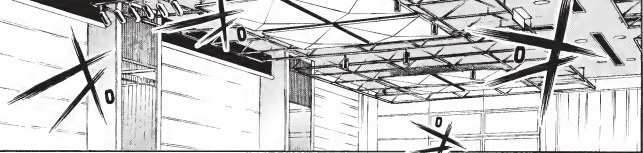
WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE TANGO
CATEGORY.

I MEAN, WE
GOTTA DO
A TOTALLY
PERFECT DANCE
FOR MARISA-
SENSEI!



FIRST
HEAT.







HOW'S
FUJITA'S
STAMINA?

WHAT?



SURE, HE
DID THE
BOX FOR
AN ENTIRE
NIGHT...
BUT THAT'S
NOT THE
SAME AS
DANCING.

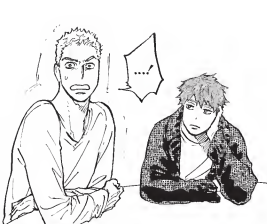
AVERAGE,
I GUESS.

WHAT, HE'S
MORE WORRIED
ABOUT TATARA
THAN SHIZUKU?

*THE STYLES IN THE STANDARD, WALTZ,
TANGO, FOXTROT AND QUICKSTEP

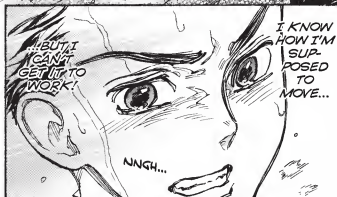
SO CAN HE
DO WTFQ*
ALL IN A
ROW IN A
COMPETI-
TION?

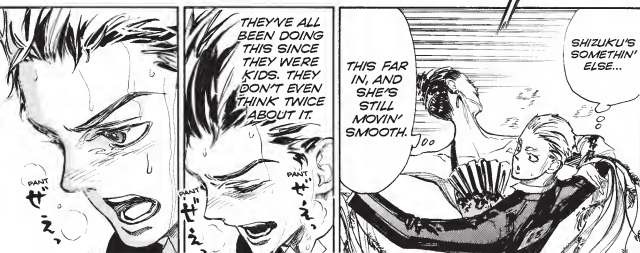


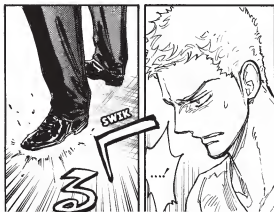
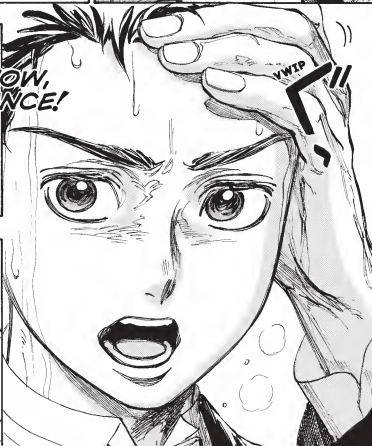
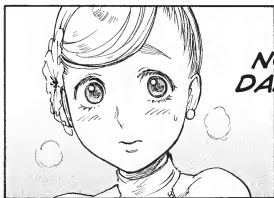
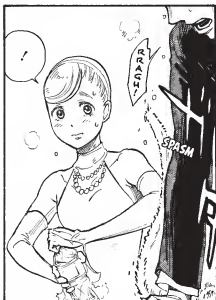
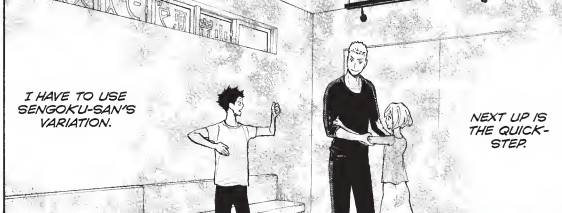


...HE'S STILL
GONNA PUT
EVERYTHING
HE'S GOT INTO
HIS DANCE.

EVEN IF
HIS BODY
CAN'T FULLY
RECOVER...

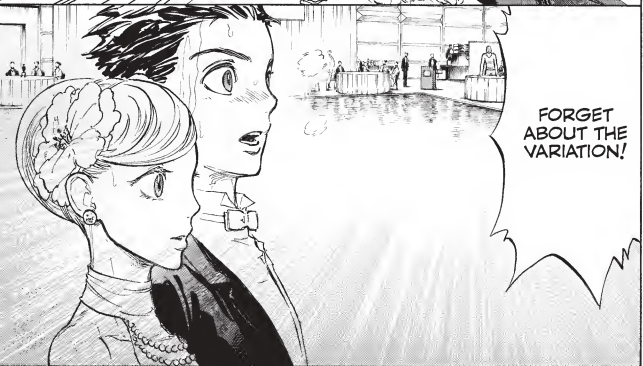




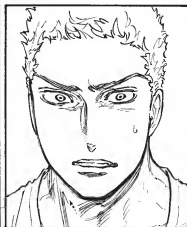
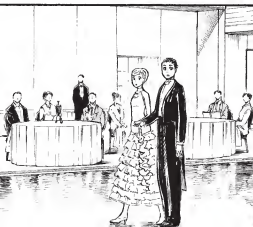


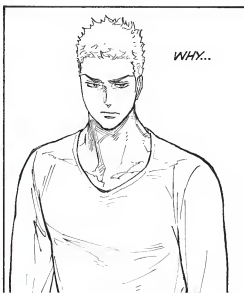
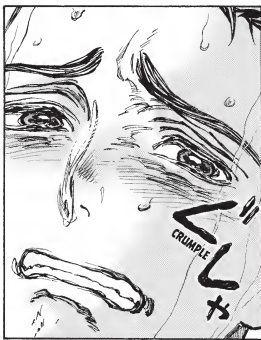
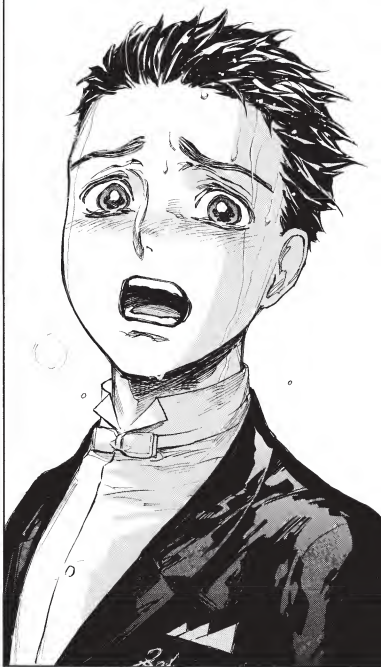


LET'S
DO IT!



FORGET
ABOUT THE
VARIATION!





...LIKE
THIS?

WHY
AM I...



THEY'RE ALL
AMAZING
DANCERS.

MAKO-
CHAN AND
HANAOKA-
SAN AND
GAJU-SAN-



SO THEY
AIN'T
GON' DO
SENGOKU-
SAN'S
VARIATION?

W H A A P



I TRULY
RESPECT
THEM.

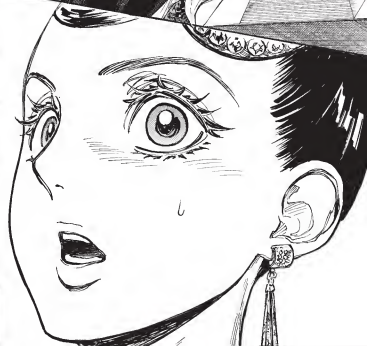


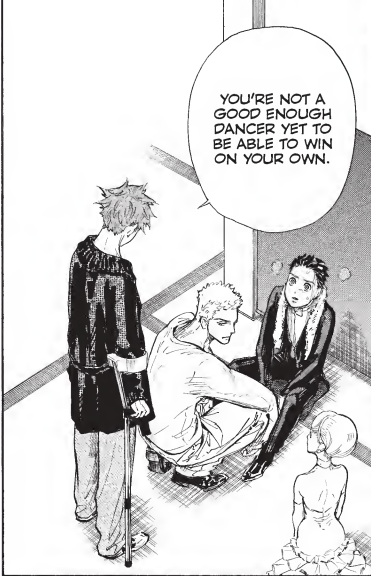


YOU 100%
CANNOT BEAT
GAJU, FUJITA.

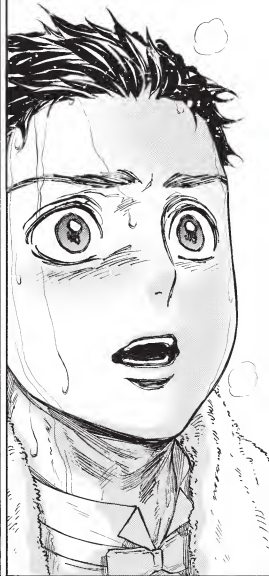


KIYO-
HARU...

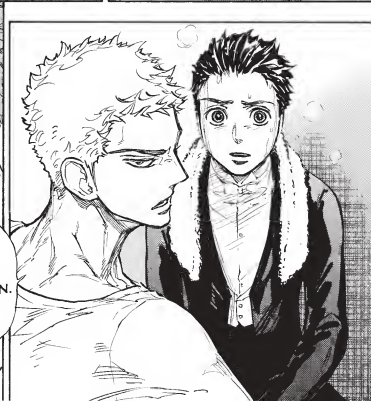




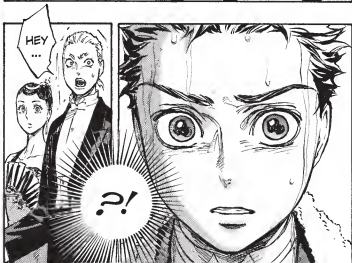
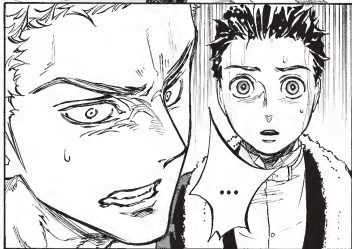
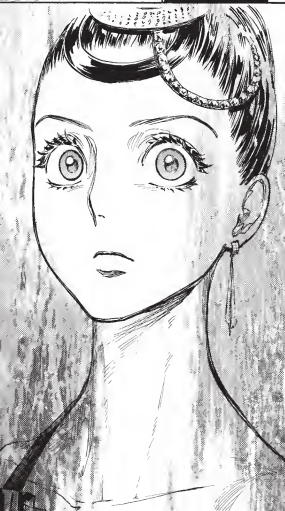
YOU'RE NOT A
GOOD ENOUGH
DANCER YET TO
BE ABLE TO WIN
ON YOUR OWN.



YOU'VE BEEN
FIGHTING
THE WRONG
OPPONENT.



...
C'MON.





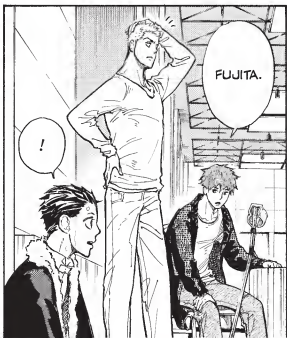
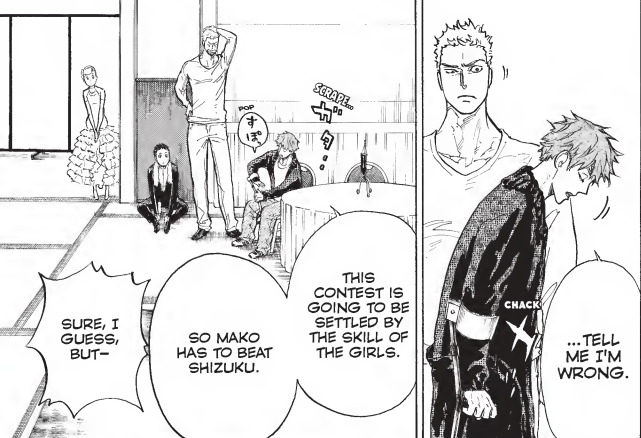
SECOND HEAT.

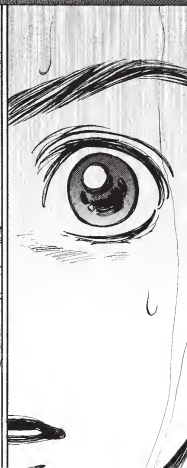


HOW COULD
YOU SAY
THAT TO
YOUR OWN
PARTNER?!



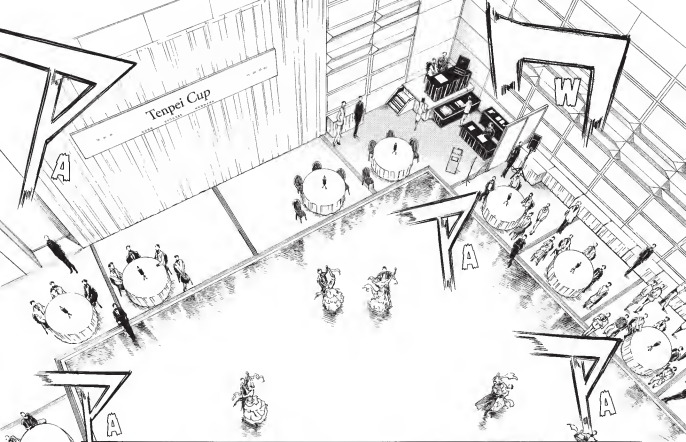
IS THAT
THE KIND
OF GUY
YOU ARE?







Heat 9: END



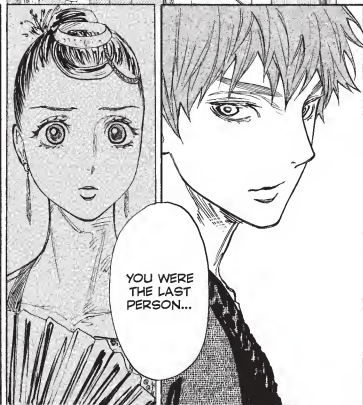
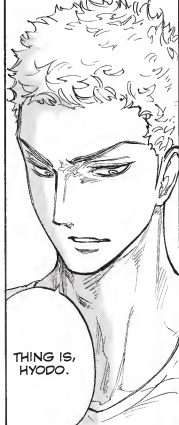
«THIS
CONTEST IS
GOING TO BE
SETTLED BY
THE SKILL OF
THE GIRLS.»

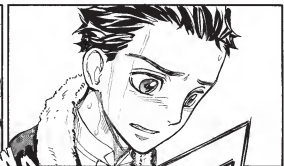
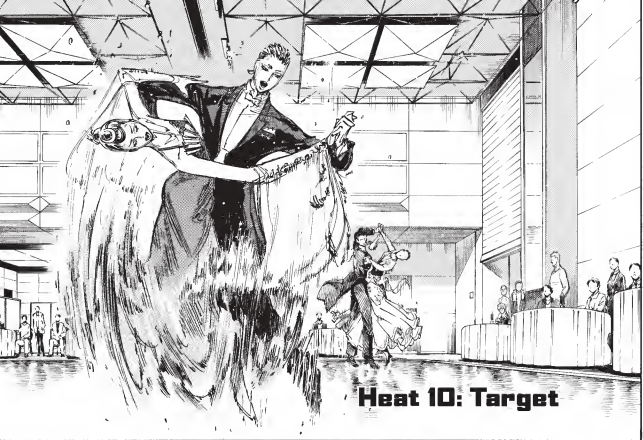
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
BY THAT,
HYODO-
KUN...?

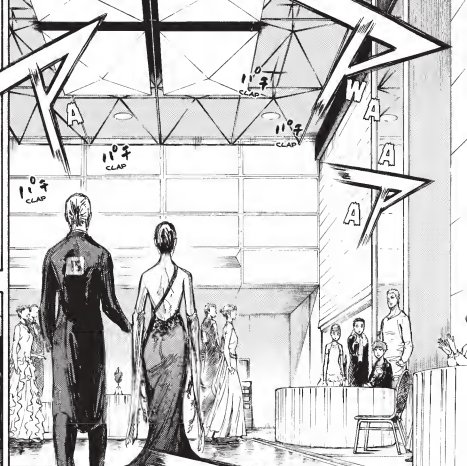
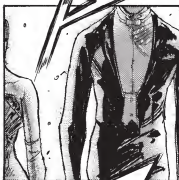
—IS HANAOKA
SHIZUKU.

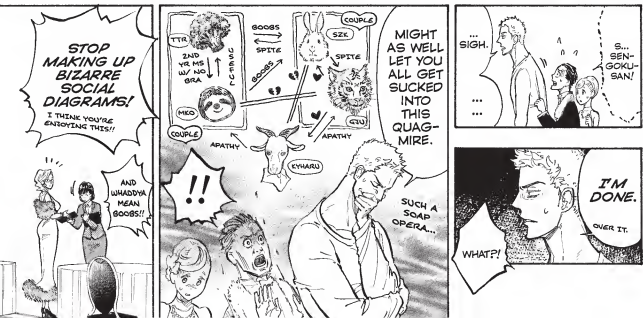
THE PERSON
YOU HAVE TO
BEAT—

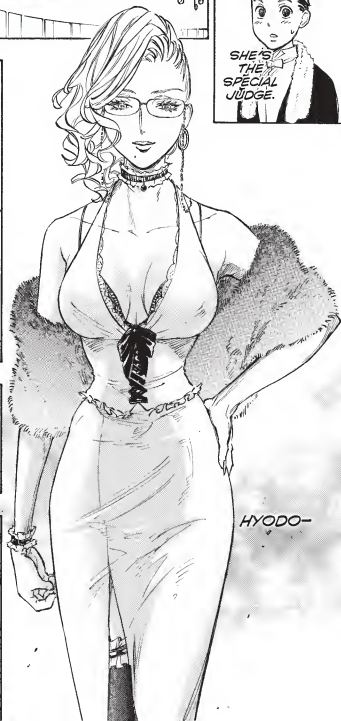
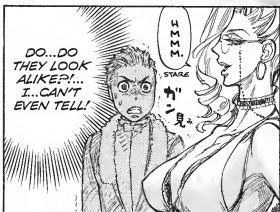
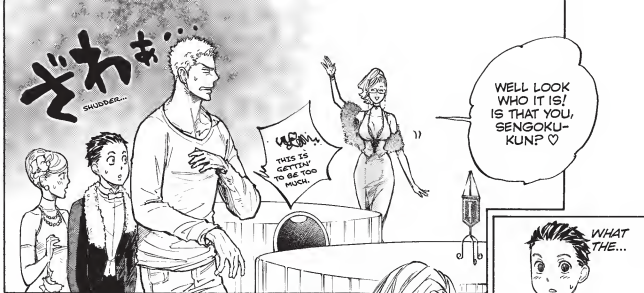
THAT'S
...

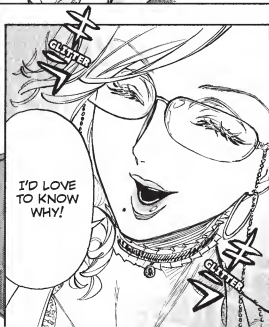
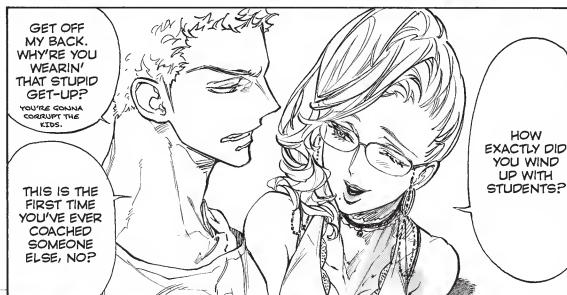
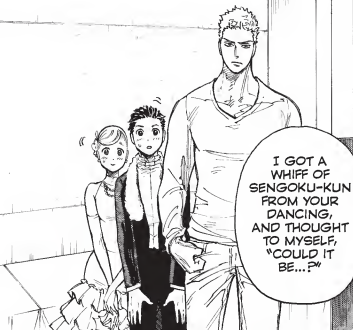


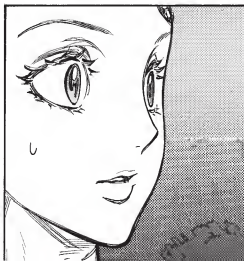
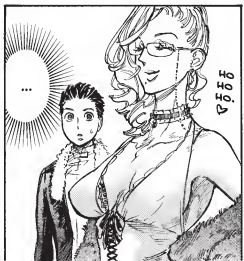
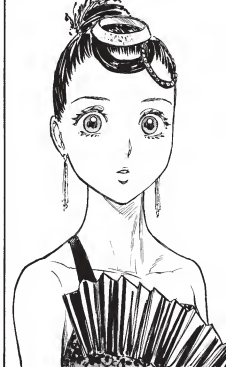
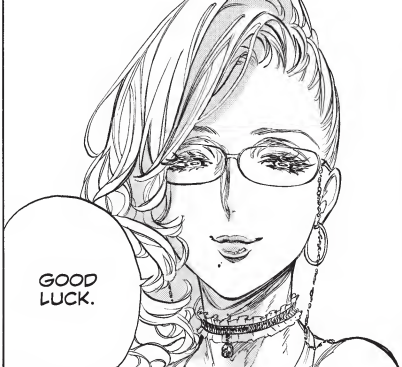


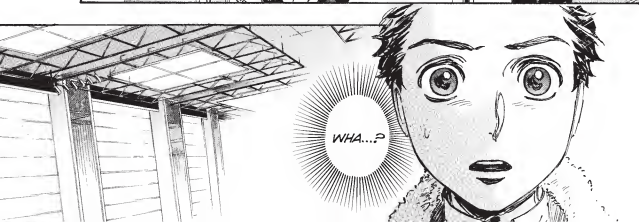


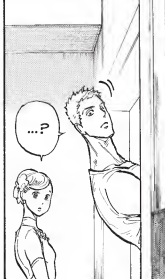








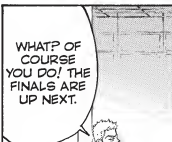
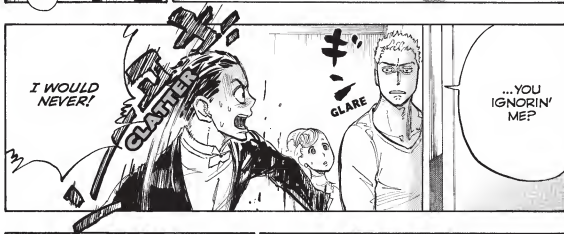


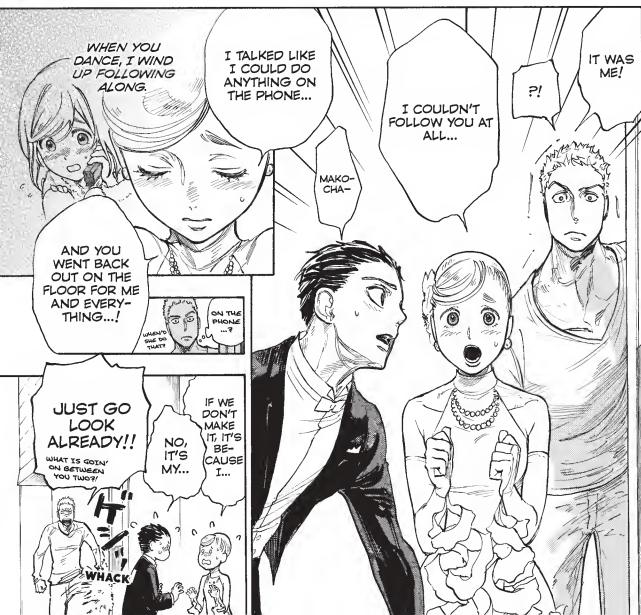


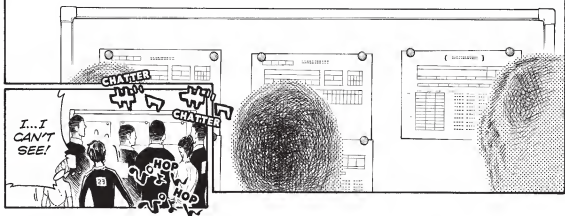
GO TAKE A
LOOK FOR US,
TATARA.



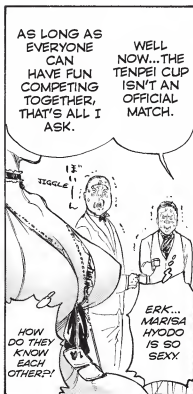
OH-LOOKS
LIKE THE
SEMIFINAL
RESULTS ARE
UP.

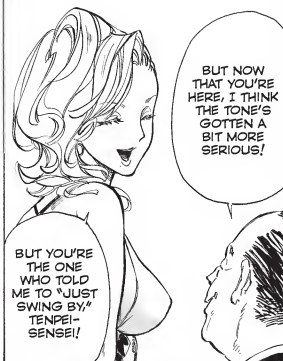
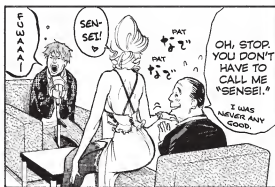






SIGN: JUDGES' ROOM





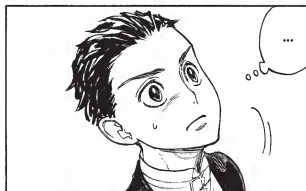


VERY
FAITHFUL
TO THE
DANCE.

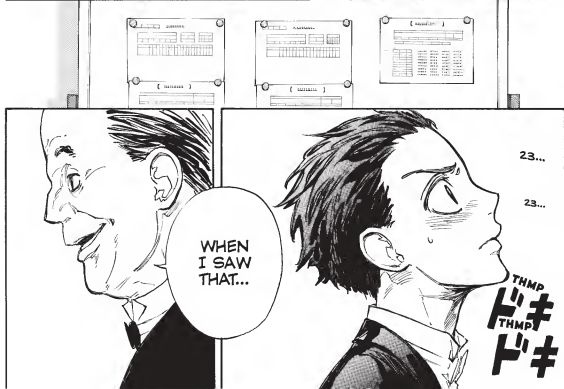
DOING
EACH
MOTION
ONE BY
ONE.



THEY WERE
VERY
DELIBERATE,
WEREN'T
THEY?



...



WHEN
I SAW
THAT...

23...

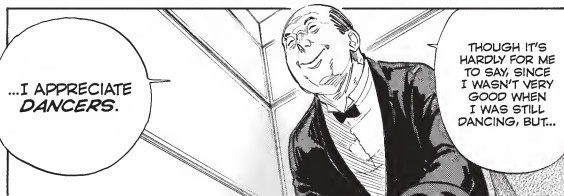
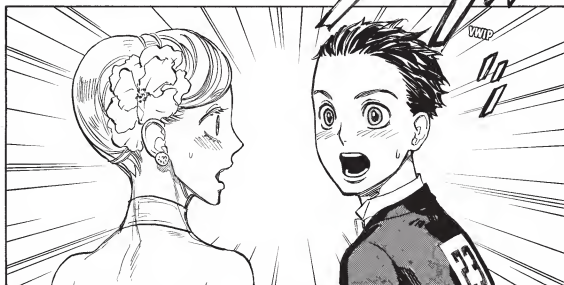
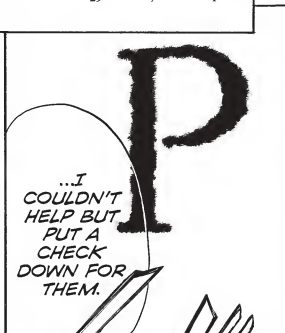
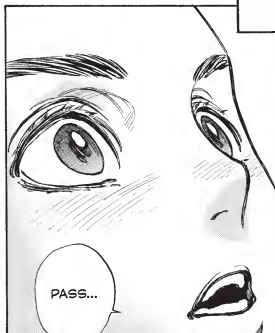
23...

THMP
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ

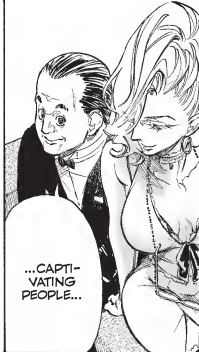
Entry No.	Name
12	Hideyuki Morioka
23	Tatara Fujita
28	Katsuya Hosono
36	Yoichi Shibata
41	Yohei Ono

WTFQ	WTFQ	WTFQ	WTFQ	WTFQ	W
*	*	*	*	*	*
***	****	****	****	****	*

WTFQ	Total	Rank	Decision
* *	13	9	
****	29	7	P



THOUGH IT'S
HARDLY FOR ME
TO SAY, SINCE
I WASN'T VERY
GOOD WHEN
I WAS STILL
DANCING, BUT...



...CAPTI-
VATING
PEOPLE...



IF YOU
MANAGE
TO CATCH
THEIR
EYE...



THOSE
SCINTILLATING...



...AND
INSTANTLY
DRAWN IN...

...YOU'RE
TRANSFIXED...



...IT MADE
ME WANT
TO SEE
MORE.



THE WAY
THEY
DANCED...

		Hyodo						Hanageishi			
Entry No.	Name	W T F Q	W T F Q	W T F Q	W T F Q	W T F Q	Total	Rank	Decision		
12	Hideyuki Morioka	*	* *	*	*	*	13	9			
23	Tatara Fujita	** *	** **	** *	*	*	20	7	P		
28	Katsuya Hosono	** **	** **	** *	*	*			P		
36	Yoichi Shibata	*		*							
41	Yohei Ono	** *	* *	** **	*	** *					





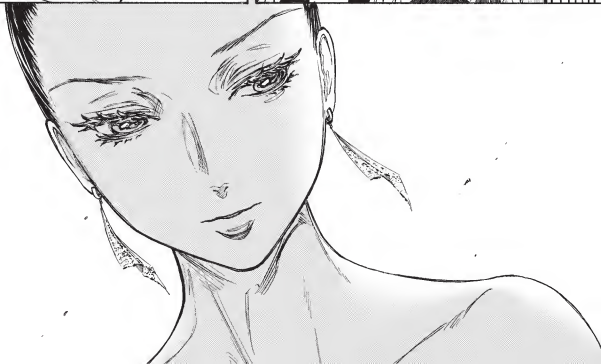
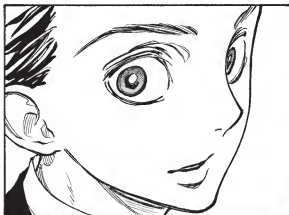
WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU WIN TO CELEBRATE!

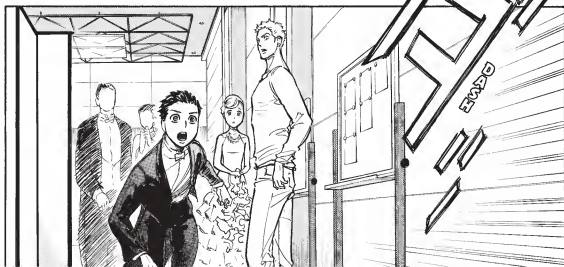
IDIOT!

WAUGH!

...!

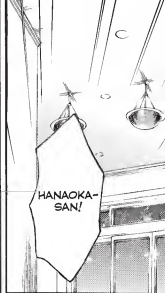
SMACK







WHAT HYODO-KUN SAID—I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD LET IT BOTHER YOU!



HANAOKA-SAN!



...IS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT GAJU-SAN TO TAKE YOU AWAY!



THE...THE REASON HE SAID TO TAKE YOU DOWN...

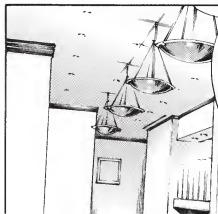
STEP
すたすた STEP



...OH REALLY?



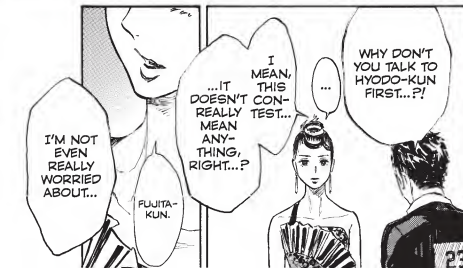
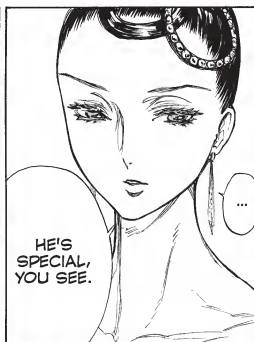
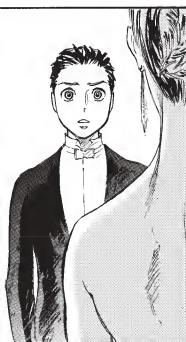
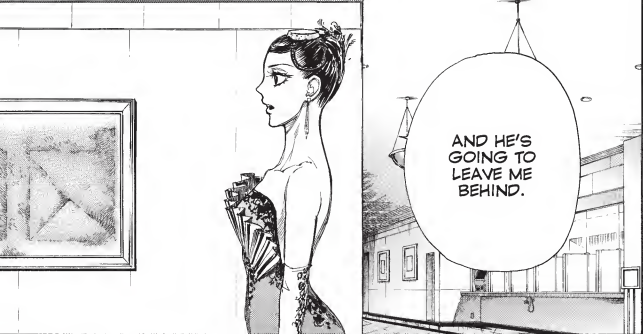
AND...

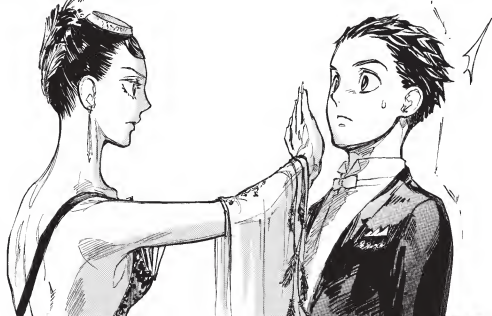


KIYOHARU IS GOING TO GET BETTER AND BETTER.



HE VALUES HAVING YOU AS HIS PARTNER...





I'M GOING
TO PUT
EVERYTHING
OUT THERE.

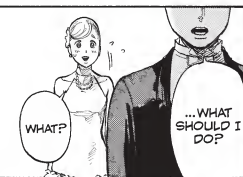
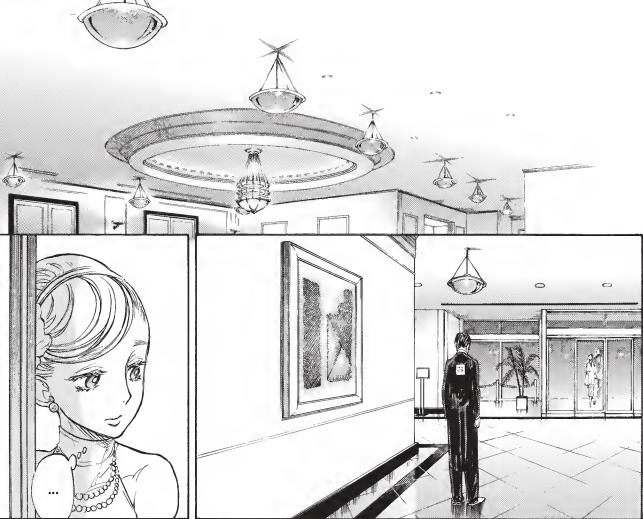
HANAOKA-
SAN...

DON'T
WASTE
YOUR TIME
WORRYING
ABOUT ME.

HUH?

SHE LOOKS
SO HURT.

KIYOHARU IS
WATCHING.

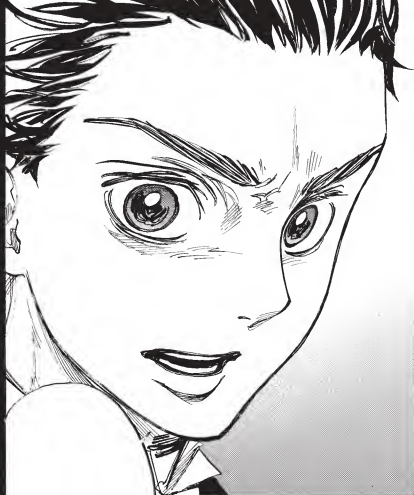


WE HAVE TO TAKE HANAOKA-SAN DOWN...

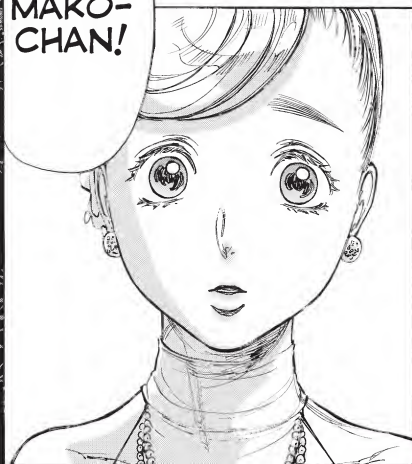


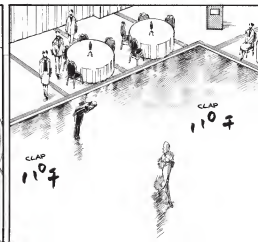
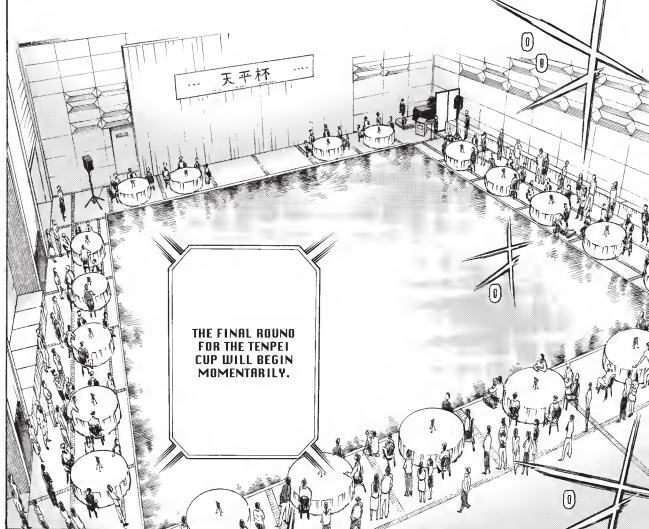
**...FOR
HER
OWN
GOOD.**

**HOW CAN
WE WIN?**



MAKO-
CHAN!

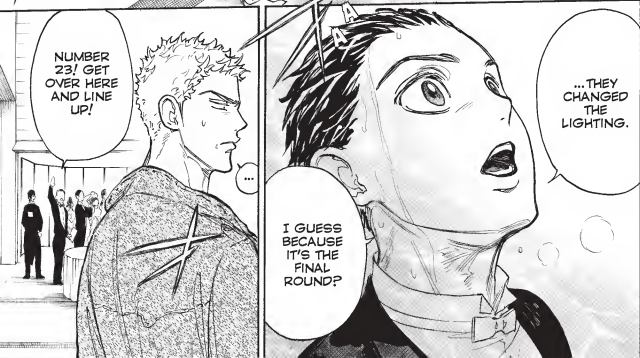
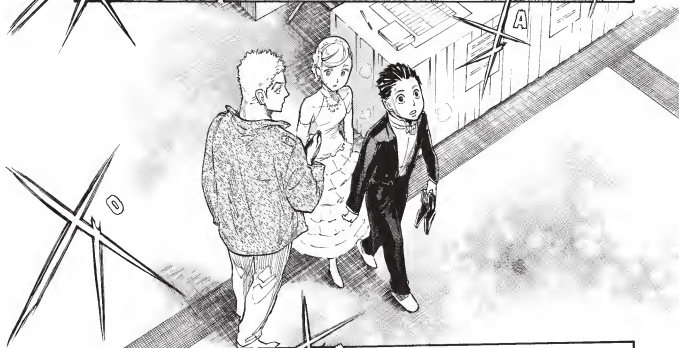






I THOUGHT
YOU GOT
SPOOKED
ABOUT THE
COMPETITION
AND RAN
OFF!

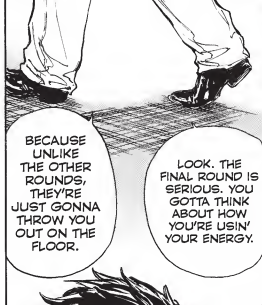
WHERE'D YOU
DISAPPEAR
TO,
BUTTHEAD?!



NUMBER
23! GET
OVER HERE
AND LINE
UP!

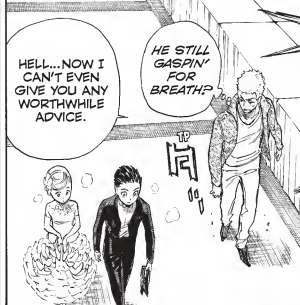
...THEY
CHANGED
THE
LIGHTING.

I GUESS
BECAUSE
IT'S THE
FINAL
ROUND?



BECAUSE
UNLIKE
THE OTHER
ROUNDS,
THEY'RE
JUST GONNA
THROW YOU
OUT ON THE
FLOOR.

LOOK. THE
FINAL ROUND IS
SERIOUS. YOU
GOTTA THINK
ABOUT HOW
YOU'RE USIN'
YOUR ENERGY.



HELL...NOW I
CAN'T EVEN
GIVE YOU ANY
WORTHWHILE
ADVICE.

HE STILL
GASPIN'
FOR
BREATH?



HAVE YOU EVER
HEARD OF "THE
FLOWER AND THE
FRAME"?



AND
ALSO...

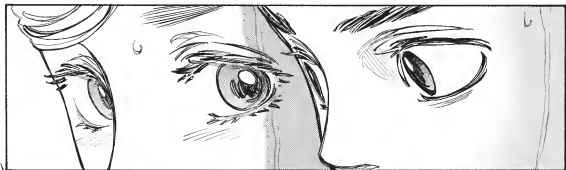
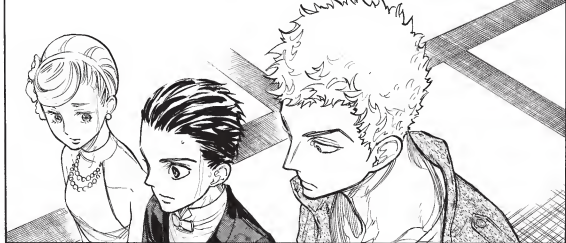


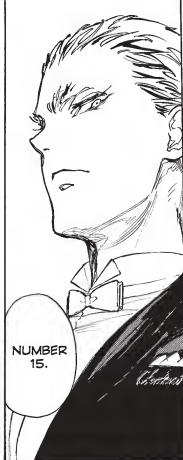
I KNOW.

HYODO WAS
TALKIN' BIG
ABOUT BEING
THE "FRAME"
BEFORE, BUT
THE LEADER'S
JOB IS TO...

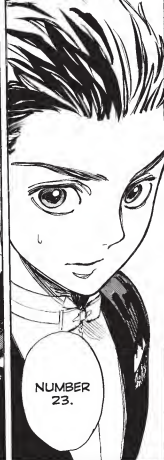


...





NUMBER
15.



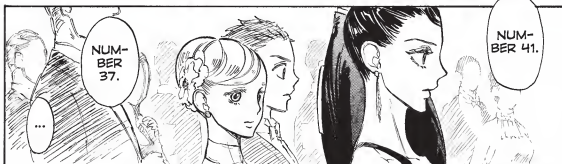
NUMBER
23.



I'M
GOING TO
READ OUT
THE ORDER
NOW.



ENTRY
NUMBER 8-



NUM-
BER
37.

NUM-
BER 41.



SOLO...?!

THE FINALS
IN THE
TENPEI CUP
START LIKE
THIS EVERY
YEAR.



SO YOU GUYS
ARE GOIN'
SECOND FOR
THE FINAL
SOLO.

... 天平杯 ...

WHICH MEANS—
YOU TWO ARE
GONNA BE ALONE
ON THE FLOOR FOR
ONE MINUTE.

THE SOLO
COMPETITION
IS JUDGED
INDIVIDUALLY.

YOU'LL
BE ABLE
TO DANCE
WITHOUT
GETTIN'
COMPARED
TO ANYONE
ELSE.

THE
INDIVIDUAL
JUDGING
IS GONNA
GIVE YOU A
CHANCE.

...!

HEH... WHY
DO YOU THINK I
ONLY PUT A VARI-
ATION ON ONE
STYLE?

~~THE~~
~~ORDER~~
~~THAT~~
~~MEANS~~
GAUJUN-SAN
IS GOING
OUT
AFTER
US...!

EACH
SHOULD TAKE
THE FLOOR
PROMPTLY
BEFORE
THE MUSIC
STARTS.

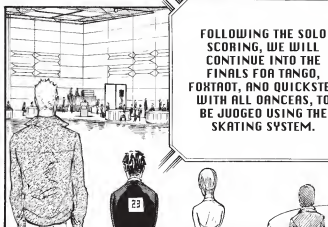
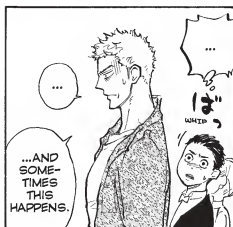
SEVEN
TEAMS
IN ALL.

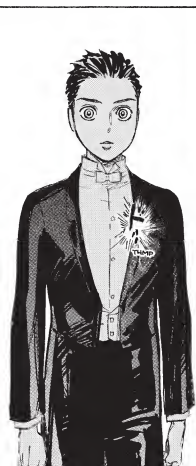
...!

YOU
MEAN
...

にまー
SMIRK

WHAT
STYLE
IS THE
SOLO...?



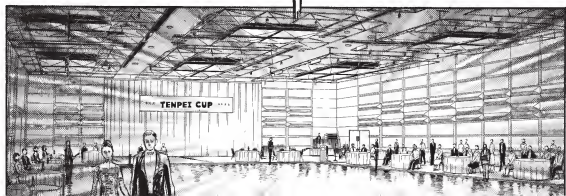
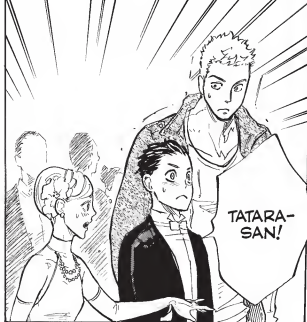




NOW IS WHEN HE STARTS TO LOOK SICK?

WHAT THE...







THE
SECOND
TEAM—

TATARA
FUJITA
AND MAKO
AKAGI.



NOT TO
MENTION...



IT'S
NO.
23.

OH!

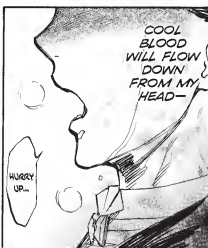
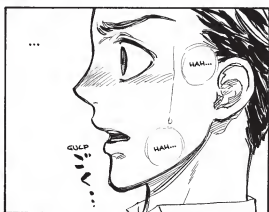
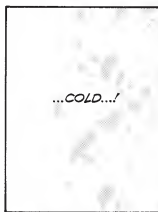


I'M SURE
THIS IS HIS
FIRST TIME
IN A FINAL

TATARA
FUJITA-
KUN...

THAT'S A
UNIQUE
NAME





MY
BODY...



BOOM

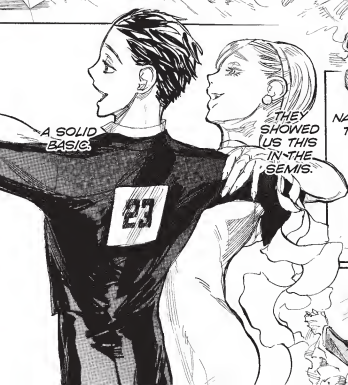
START
THE
MUSIC!

...WANTS
TO HEAT
UP.

HURRY
UP!



**I HAVE
TO
DANCE.**



**A SOLID
BASIC.**

**THEY
SHOWED
US THIS
IN THE
SEMI'S.**

**A
NATURAL
TURN.**

**FIRST
FIGURE.**



**THEN
A SPIN
TURN.**





AND YET
THERE
ARE RARE
MOMENTS
OF
AUDACITY.

HE'S
USUALLY
SO TIMID
AND
NERVOUS.

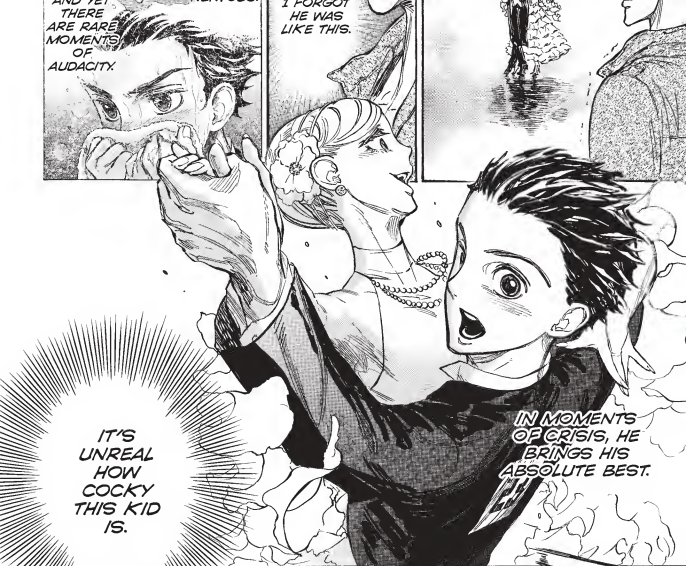


I FORGOT
HE WAS
LIKE THIS.

SO HE WAS
RELAXED
ENOUGH TO PLOT
WHEN EXACTLY
TO DEPLOY THAT
FACE...



...



IT'S
UNREAL
HOW
COCKY
THIS KID
IS.

IN MOMENTS
OF CRISIS, HE
BRINGS HIS
ABSOLUTE BEST.

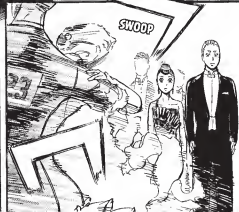


SUCKS
ALL THE
TENSION
OUTTA IT.

HE'S
GONNA DO
BASIC IN
THE FINAL
SOLOP HE
BETTER
NOT BE
SLOPPY...



FUJITA-
KUN: HE'S
NOT MOVING
THE WAY
HE USUALLY
DOES...



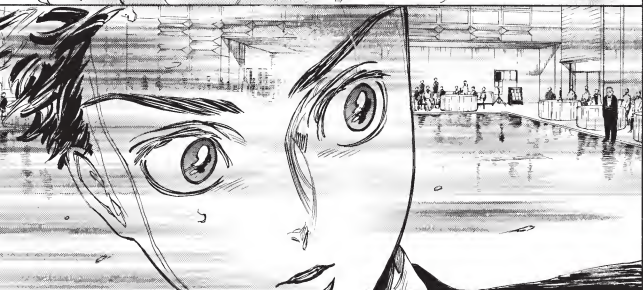
SWOOP

SOMETHIN' °
FEELS OFF

WHAT
THE—

I FIGURE
THAT'S ALL HE
KNOWS HOW
TO DANCE,
THOUGH.

...?



TWICE
IN A
ROW...

SWOOSH

THE
WHISK*

*ONE OF THE TECHNIQUES OF THE WALTZ.

THE L.O.D.*
CHANGED!

BUMP

I'M
NOT!
BUT—

"STOP
DANCING BY
YOURSELF."

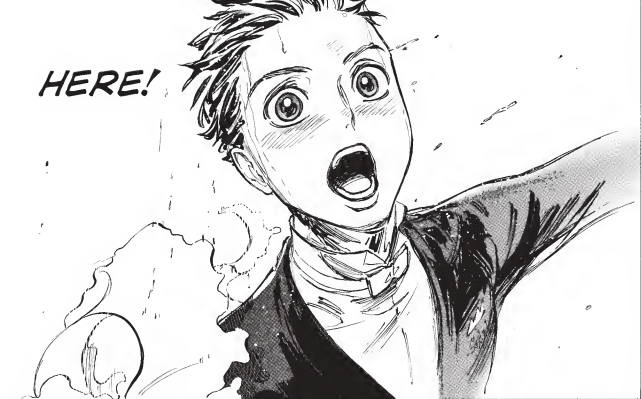
I'M NOT
GONNA DO
HYODO-
KUN'S
ROUTINE!!

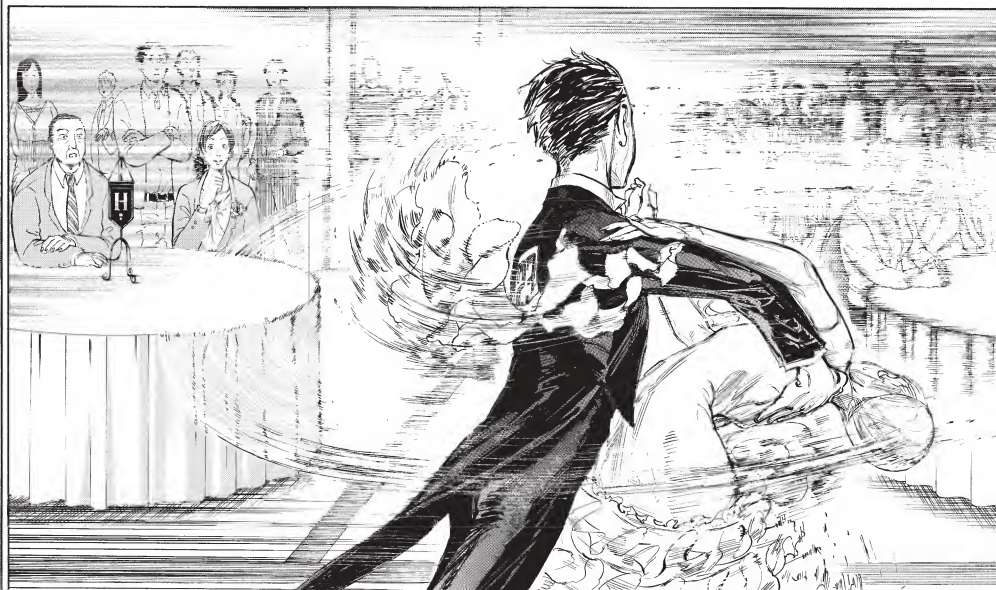
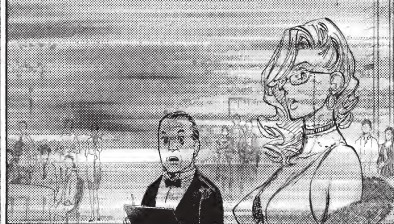
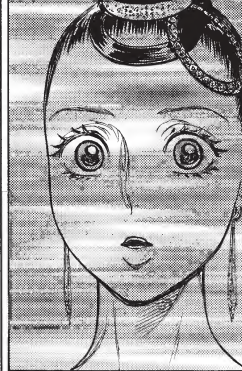
*LINE OF DANCE, THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE DANCERS PROGRESS ON
THE FLOOR, TYPICALLY COUNTERCLOCKWISE, AS VIEWED FROM ABOVE.

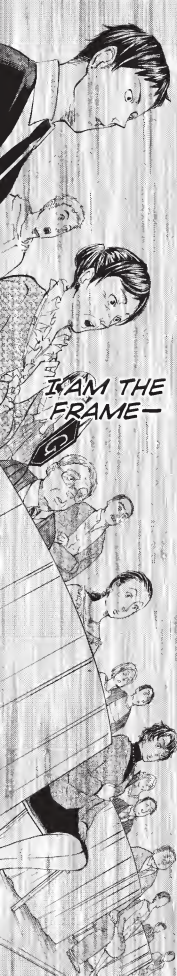
TWO
FEET TO
GO.

30
FEET TO
GO.

HERE!







A DOUBLE
TURNING LOCK
INTO...

I AM THE
FRAME—

...A THROWAWAY
OVERSWAY!

I HAVE
ONLY ONE
JOB!





AND MAKO-
CHAN IS THE
FLOWER!

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

Special Thanks!

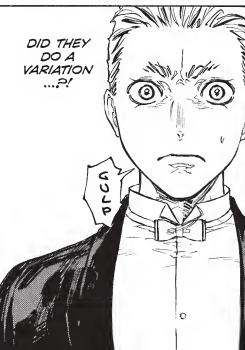
For help with waltz variations

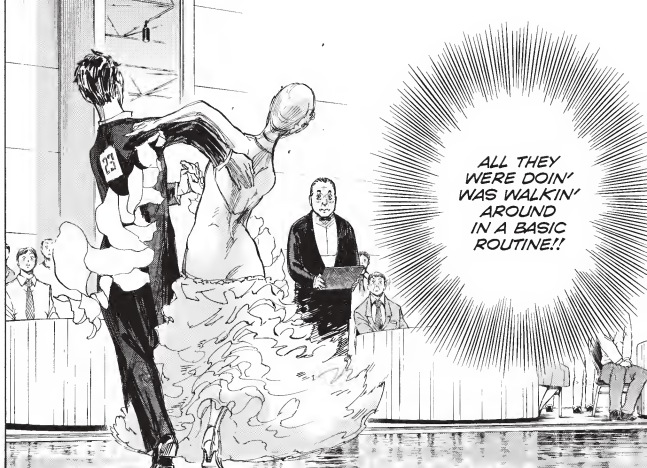
Mr. Takahiro Akitani

Ms. Miho Tahara

Background assistance

Sakurada Dance School





ALL THEY
WERE DOIN'
WAS WALKIN'
AROUND
IN A BASIC
ROUTINE!!



WHAT'RE
YOU
THINKIN',
TATARAP!

AND HE
JUST
THROWS
IT OUT
THERE.



IT'S ONE OF
THE FIGURES
IN HYODO'S
VARIATION.



THAT
THROW-
AWAY
OVERSWAY
HE JUST
DID...

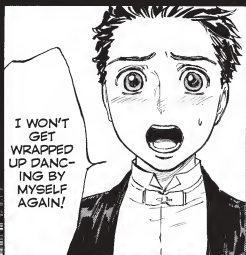


...WANNA
DANCE LIKE
I DID IN THE
SEMIFINALS
ANYMORE...

I
DON'T...



HOW
CAN WE
WIN?!



I WON'T
GET
WRAPPED
UP DANC-
ING BY
MYSELF
AGAIN!

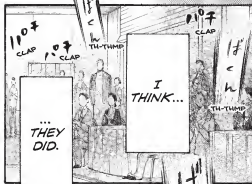


BUT WE
HAVE TO
BEAT
HANAOKA-
SAN!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
PRETTY
NERVOUS
HAVING A
GUY LIKE
ME LEAD
YOU.



IS THERE
ANYTHING
I CAN
DO FOR
YOU...?

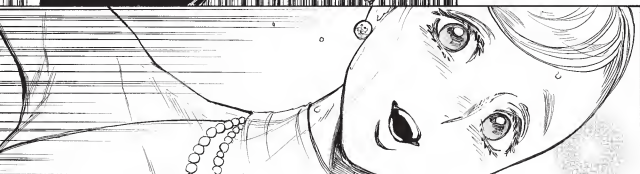




...IT'S A
GREAT
BEAT...!



BUT COMPARED TO
THE COLD NERVES
I HAD BEFORE WE
STARTED DANCING...



TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK
AT THE
FLOOR.

RAHEW

AND HIS LEAD IS
COMING THROUGH
PERFECTLY!



TATARA-SAN'S
WEARING SUCH
A NATURAL
SMILE.



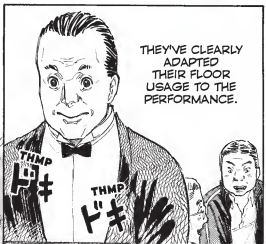
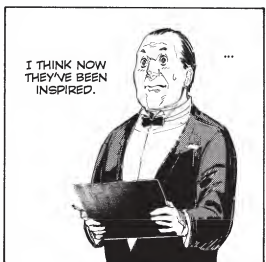
HOW
CAN I
USE
IT?!



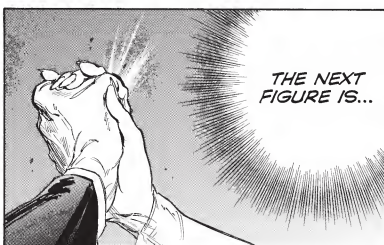
SO AT
EASE
ON THE
STAGE?

DID NUMBER
23 ALWAYS
LOOK LIKE
THIS?

I THINK NOW
THEY'VE BEEN
INSPIRED.



THEY'VE CLEARLY
ADAPTED
THEIR FLOOR
USAGE TO THE
PERFORMANCE.



THE NEXT
FIGURE IS...

I DID
HALF A
CIRCUIT.



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
NEXT?!



...BUT
NOW THAT
LEADER
HAS
GOTTEN
INTO IT.

HE WAS
COMPLETELY
PARALYZED
BEFORE
THE MUSIC
STARTED...



WELL,
THEY
CAME
RIGHT UP
TO US.
MADE IT
HARD NOT
TO.

I...I
JUST AP-
PLAUDED.

THEY'VE
GONE BACK
TO THE
BASICS.

WHISK...

NATURAL
SPIN
TURN*.

*NAME FOR A COMBINED IT'S NATURAL TURN AND SPIN TURN.

IS THIS A
ROUTINE?

WHAT?
THEY'RE
DOING A HIGH
OVERSWAY
AGAIN?

IT'S LIKE
THEY'RE
BUILDING IT
AROUND THE
BASIC, THEN
THROWING IN
A VARIATION
AT RANDOM.

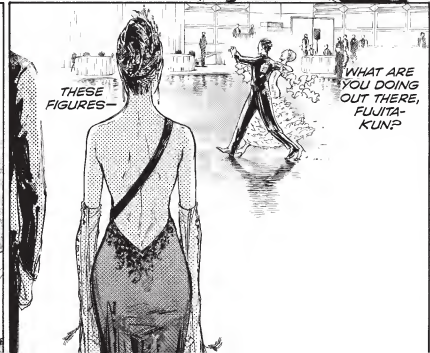
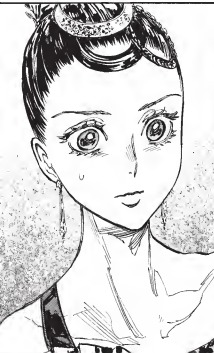
WHAT A
STRANGE
ROUTINE.

THAT
VARIATION...

...

THEY GO
FROM A SAME
FOOT LUNGE
POSITION...

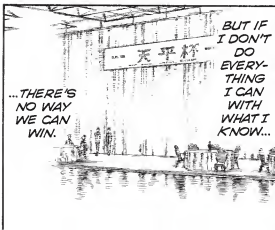
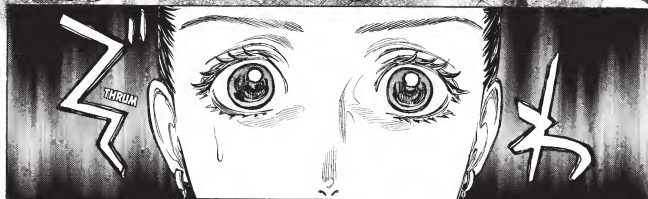
SURELY
NOT.





...FROM
ME AND
KIYOHARU
...?!

DID YOU
ARRANGE THIS
ROUTINE BY
MIXING IN
VARIATIONS...



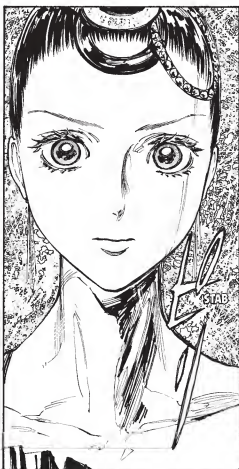
...THERE'S
NO WAY
WE CAN
WIN.

BUT IF
I DON'T
DO
EVERY-
THING
I CAN
WITH
WHAT I
KNOW...



I'M
POACHING
PARTS
OF YOUR
ROUTINE.

I'M SORRY,
HANAOKA-
SAN,
HYODO-
KUN.





...ISN'T A
ROUTINE.

WHAT
THEY'RE
DOING...

BUT—

HE THOUGHT
ABOUT THE
FLOOR CON-
FIGURATION.

SPIN

PIV-
OT—

HE'S
IMPROVISING.

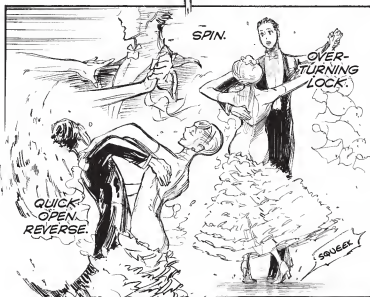
KEEP
GOING!

IT'S NOT SO
UNUSUAL FOR
COMPETITORS
TO CHANGE UP
THEIR AMAL-
GAMATIONS A
COUPLE TIMES
ON THE DAY
OF THE CONTEST.

FOR
NORMAL
PEOPLE,
ANYWAY!

WHEN
A NEW
COUPLE
TRIES
IT, IT'S
USUALLY
SUICIDE.

SINCE
THEY'RE
MOVES
BOTH
PARTNERS
KNOW.



HOPE HE
CHANGES
UP HIS
SPINS
SOON... I
WOULD.

SPIN.

PIVOT.



KICK UP IN
THE RONDE.



...THE WAY
THOSE TWO
COMMUNICATE.



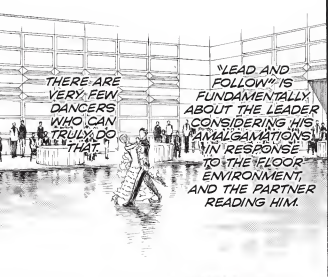
IT'S
INCREDIBLE.
LIKE THEY'RE
PLAYING.

THE
INFOR-
MATION
AND
SIGNAL-
ING...

...
THEY'RE
GIVING
EACH
OTHER.

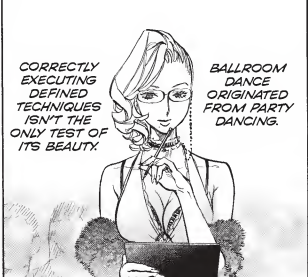
TWINGE

TWINGE



THERE ARE
VERY FEW
DANCERS
WHO CAN
TRULY DO
THAT.

"LEAD AND
FOLLOW" IS
FUNDAMENTALLY
ABOUT THE LEADER
CONSIDERING HIS
AMALGAMATIONS
IN RESPONSE
TO THE FLOOR
ENVIRONMENT,
AND THE PARTNER
READING HIM.

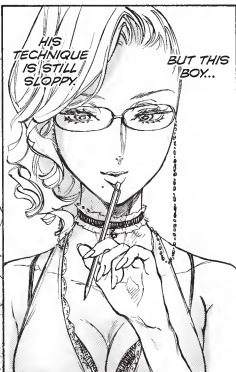


CORRECTLY
EXECUTING
DEFINED
TECHNIQUES
ISN'T THE
ONLY TEST OF
ITS BEAUTY.

BALLROOM
DANCE
ORIGINATED
FROM PARTY
DANCING.



AND YET HE'S
CAPABLE OF
A DANCE SO
ATTUNED
TO BODY
LANGUAGE, IT'S
ASTOUNDING.



HIS
TECHNIQUE
IS STILL
SLOPPY.

BUT THIS
BOY...



THAT
PARTNER—

...WHAT
HAP-
PENED?



MAKO-
CHAN...

IN THE
AKAGI TEAM,
THE LEADER
SEEMED TO
BE SPINNING
THE
PARTNER
AROUND,
BUT THE
PARTNER
HAD NO
AGENCY.





...SUCH
PRESENCE IN
THE DANCE?

DID SHE
HAVE...

WAS SHE
LIKE
THIS IN
THE LAST
ROUND?



SINCE WHEN
COULD MAKO
DANCE LIKE
THAT...?



MURMUR...



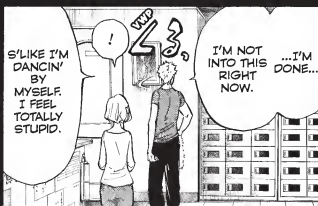
YER
WOB-
BLIN',
MAKO.

WE'RE
OUTTA
SYNC ON
THE FOUR
COUNT.

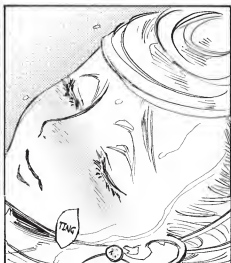
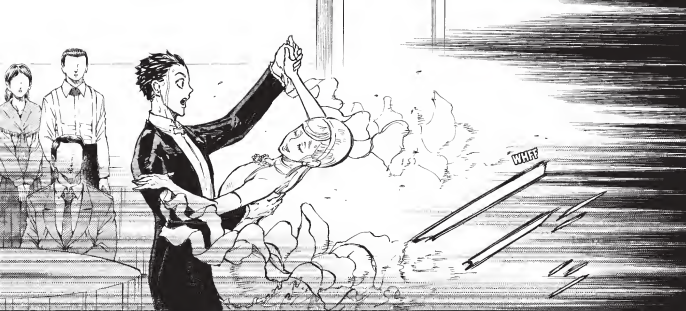
YER
STEPS'RE
ALL
WEIRD!

SORRY!

SORRY!







THE "FRAME"
WAS TOO
FLAMBOYANT-

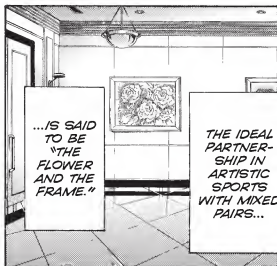


SHE WAS
BEING
SMOTHERED
WHEN SHE
WAS WITH
GAJU.



...IS SAID
TO BE
"THE
FLOWER
AND THE
FRAME."

THE IDEAL
PARTNER-
SHIP IN
ARTISTIC
SPORTS
WITH MIXED
PAIRS...



AND THE
FRAME WILL
NEVER SUFFER
BY GUIDING THE
FLOWER TO FULL
BEAUTY.



THE WOMAN
IS THE
FLOWER.
THE MAN
IS THE
FRAME.

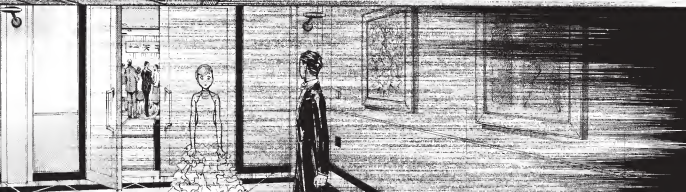
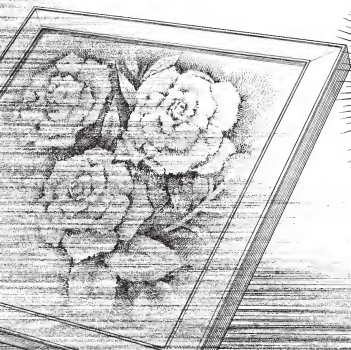
I'LL BE
THE
FRAME.

I'LL DO
IT.

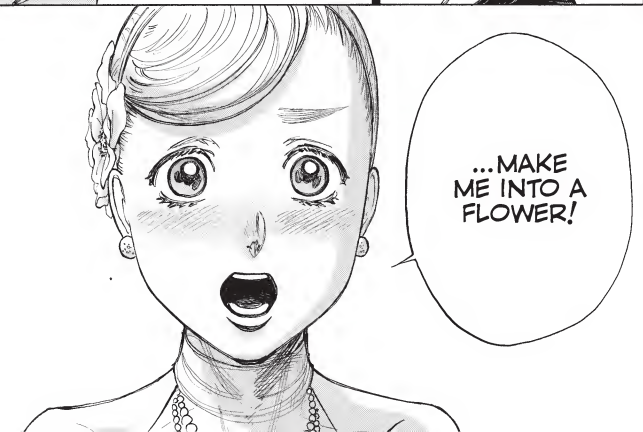
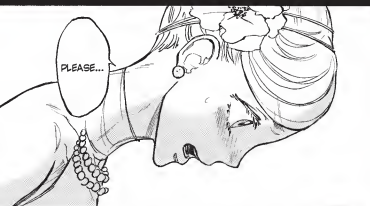
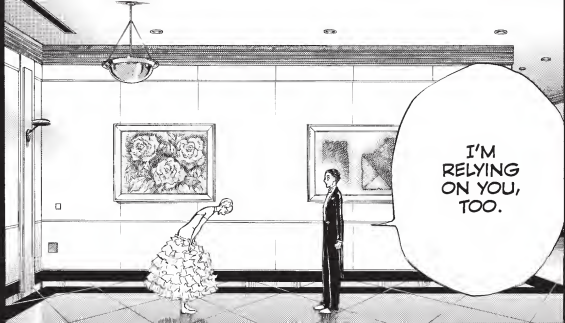
THE TWO
OF YOU...

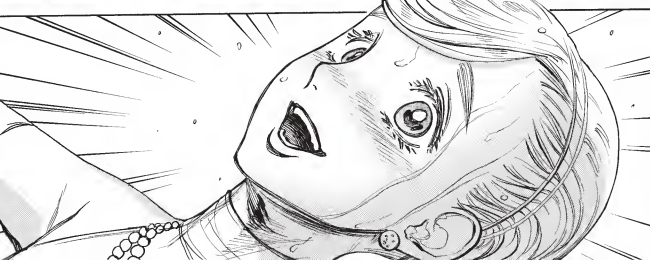
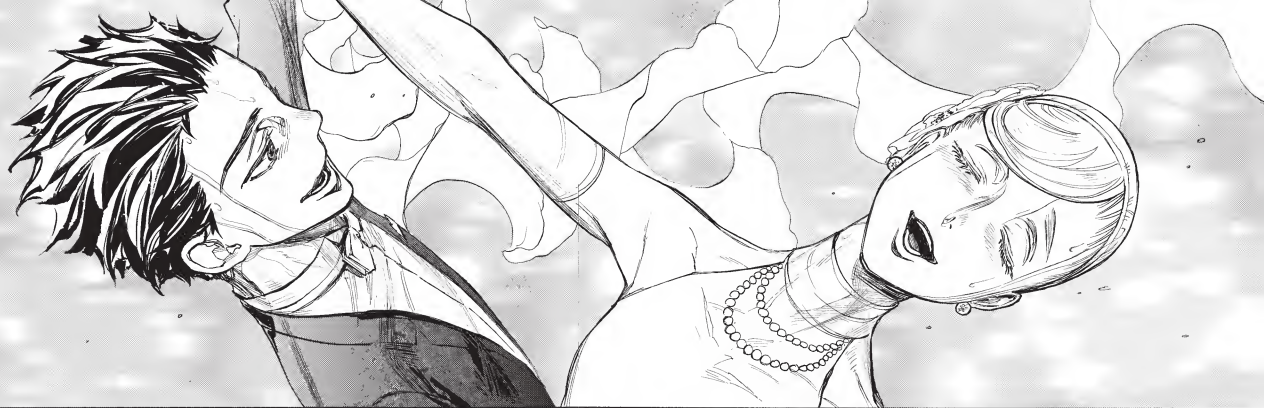
THE
PARTNER
LIVES OR
DIES BY
HER LEAD.

HOW
DID YOU
INTERPRET
THAT...?!











BUT THE
LEADER IS
TOTALLY
OBSCURED.



THIS
COUPLE IS
DIFFERENT.



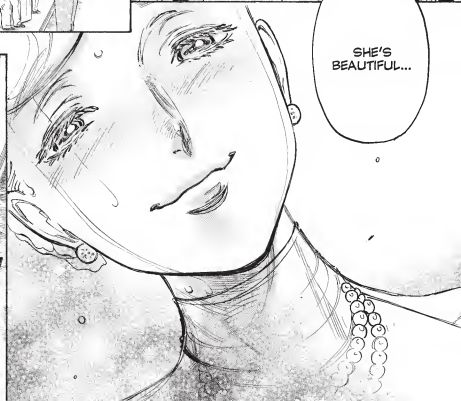
OBVIOUSLY
THE PARTNER
IS SKILLED.

THE
PARTNER
IS ALL I
SEE.

B
T
M
P



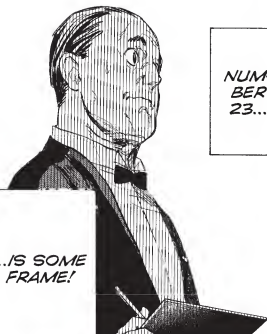
WHOA...



SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL...

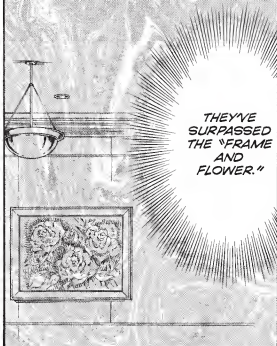


I CAN TELL
THE PARTNER
IS DANCING
BETTER THAN
USUAL.



NUMBER
23...

...IS SOME
FRAME!



THEY'VE
SURPASSED
THE "FRAME
AND
FLOWER."



IT'S
JUST...

THE
FLOWER...



...OVER-
FLOWING!

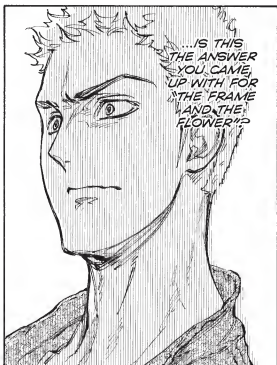
TATARA...



HOW
IN THE
WORLD...



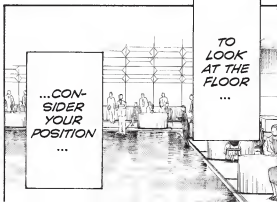
...IS THIS
THE ANSWER
YOU CAME
UP WITH FOR
THE 'FRAME
AND THE
FLOWER'?

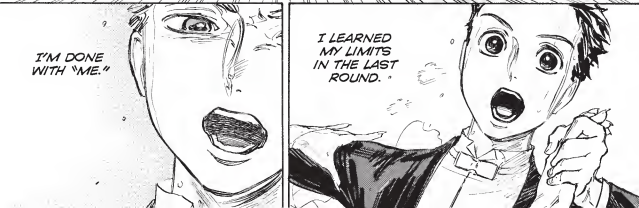
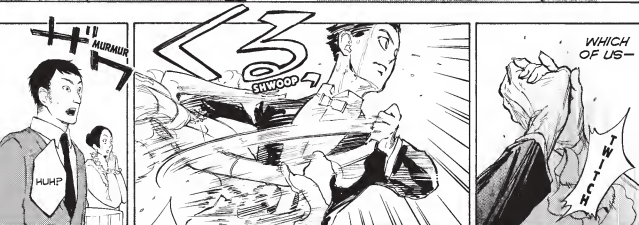
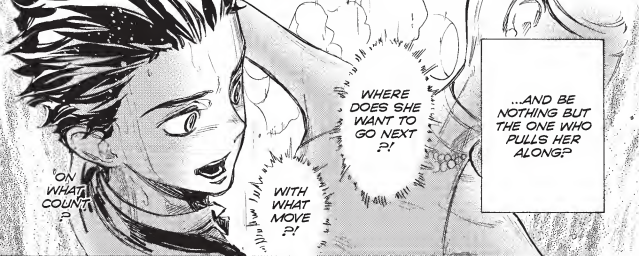


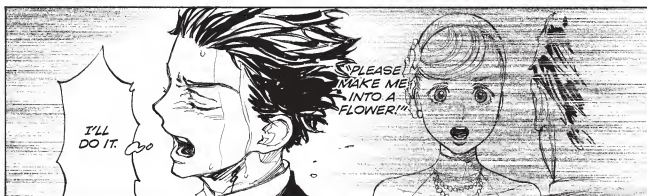
...CAN I EVEN
EVALUATE THIS
LEADER?!

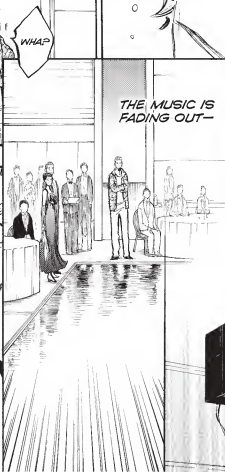
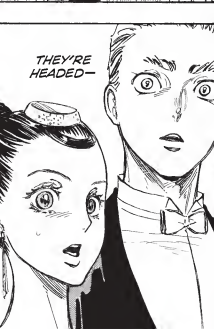
...CON-
SIDER
YOUR
POSITION
...

TO
LOOK
AT THE
FLOOR
...

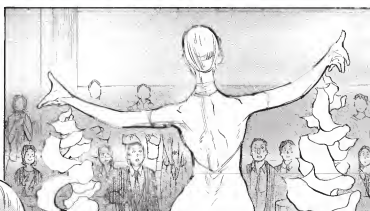
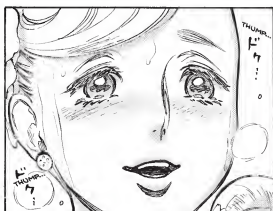


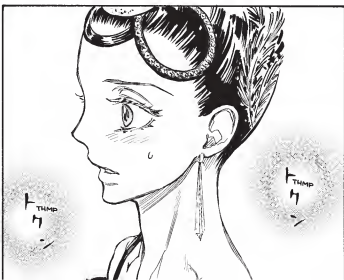
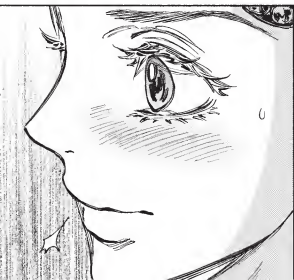
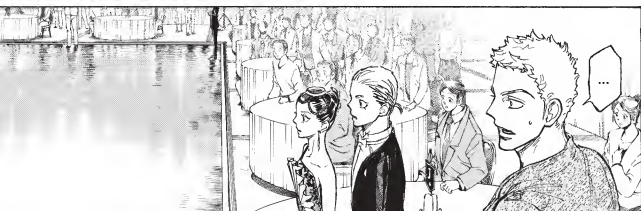
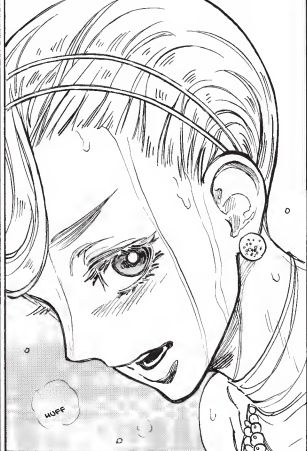


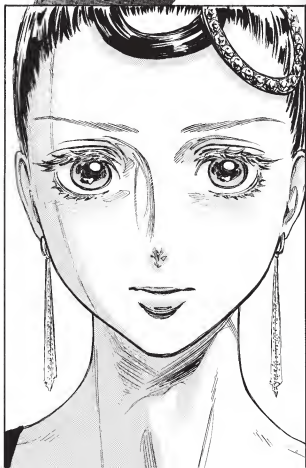


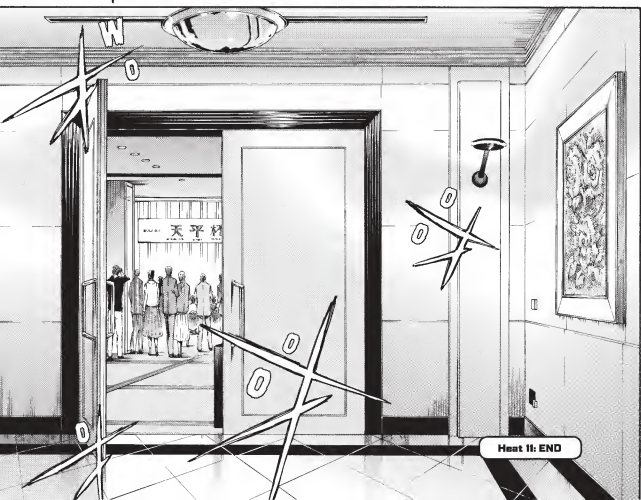










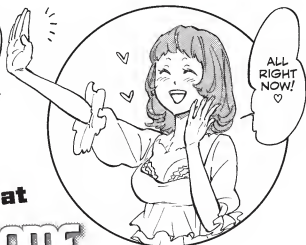


Extra Heat
OGASAWARA DANCE STUDIO
GIRL TALK





EVERYONE
WITH A
BOYFRIEND,
RAISE YOUR
HAND!

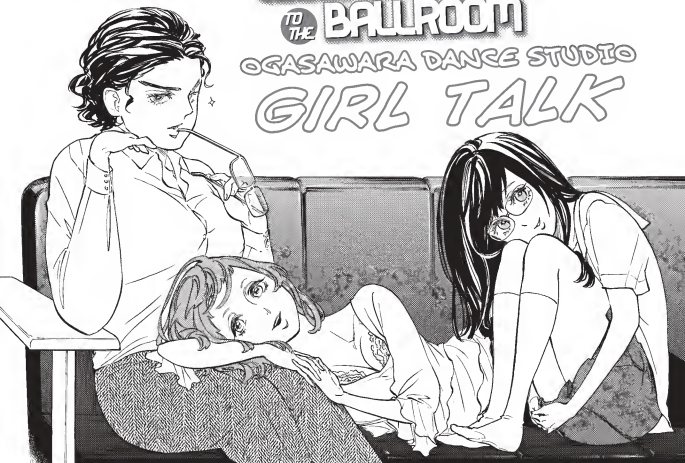


Extra Heat

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

OGASAWARA DANCE STUDIO

GIRL TALK



WE DANCE,
SO WE MEET
PEOPLE...
BUT THAT'S
IT...

SHIZUKU

WELL,
HUH!

NOPE
???

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
SHIZUKU-
CHAN?

AB-
SURD.

WHAAAT?
NO ONE?
NO BOY-
FRIENDS?

WH-
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...?



**WHEN THE PAIRS
HIT THE FLOOR
AGAIN, SPARKS
WILL FLY—**

TATARA'S TAKEN THE LESSON OF "THE
FLOWERS AND THE FRAME" TO HEART, BUT
GAJU'S A QUICK STUDY AND THIRSTY FOR
THE WIN!

*THE DESPERATE FIGHT FOR THE
TENPEI CUP REACHES ITS CLIMAX!*



**WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM**

Volume 4 coming soon!



Praise for the anime:

"The show provides a pleasant window on the highs and lows of young love with two young people who are first timers at the real thing."

—The Fandom Post

"Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be."

—Anime News Network



Say
I Love
You.

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn't need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn't angry in the slightest — in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei's trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, "I love you"?

a Silent Voice

KODANSHA
COMICS

"The word heartwarming was made for manga like this."
-Manga Bookshelf

"A harsh and biting social commentary... delivers in its depth of character and emotional strength." -Comics Bulletin

"A very powerful story about being different and the consequences of childhood bullying... Read it."
-Anime News Network



Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

Available now in print and digitally!

© Yoshitoki Oima/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

Welcome to the Ballroom 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Welcome to the Ballroom volume 3 copyright ©2012 Tomo Takeuchi,
English translation copyright ©2017 Tomo Takeuchi

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2012 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335802

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Karen McGillicuddy

Lettering: Brndn Blakeslee

Editing: Paul Starr

Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman

